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Palestinian Affairs

WAFA Terms Israeli Al-Aqsa Report 'Farce'

LD2910085190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] WAFA said yesterday that the PLO considers the report of the Israeli investigation committee on the 8 October massacre at the Jerusalem holy sanctuary as a new farce which indicates an Israeli insistence on proceeding with its arbitrary and oppressive policy against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories.

Quoting a responsible Palestinian source, WAFA added that the report tried to cover up the circumstances surrounding the Jerusalem massacre in which 18 martyrs fell as a result of the bloody massacres [word indistinct] in the Palestinian camps, by punishing three Israeli police officers, and that this farce is ridiculous.

WAFA stressed that Israel is thus attempting a whitewash and to wriggle out of responsibility.

PFLP's Habash Denounces Regional U.S. Policy

JN2910083090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that whoever wants peace in the Arabian Gulf region, which contains two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, should not deal with developments in the region away from Middle East issues and the region's problems.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHURUQ published in Tunis yesterday, Dr. Habash said that whoever thinks of guaranteeing the stability of this sensitive region, and of achieving world peace and stability, should think of settling the Gulf situation in a way that would guarantee the interests of the Palestinian people in particular, and the Arab people in general. He strongly denounced the U.S. policy toward the region's issues and the insistence on rejecting any linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Middle East issue. He said that this policy seeks to maintain America's strategic alliance with the Zionist entity even if this leads to a military conflagration with the aim of safeguarding its interests at the expense of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people.

'Arafat Sends Messages on Gulf to Leaders

To French President 25 Oct

JN2710170790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, yesterday sent a message to French President Francois Mitterrand. The message deals with the PLO's efforts to provide protection to the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland and face the repressive Zionist policy, as well as its efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

The PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY—WAFA, which reported the news yesterday, said the message was delivered by brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and the PLO's representative in Tunis, to (Luc Heneke), diplomatic adviser to French President Francois Mitterrand, during their meeting in Paris the day before yesterday [25 October], which was attended by brother Ibrahim al-Sus, head of the Palestinian General Legation in France.

The news agency added that they discussed the latest political developments. The need to intensify efforts to avert war in the Gulf and boost peace efforts was stressed. They also discussed the French stand on the Palestinian people's struggle and intifadah, and stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

To Italy's Andreotti

JN2810191790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, dispatched Bishop Hilarion Capucci to Rome yesterday with an important message for Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. The message outlines Palestinian ideas and proposals to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully under an international umbrella.

Before arriving in Tunis to see brother President Abu-'Ammar, Bishop Hilarion Capucci had met with Prime Minister Andreotti.

It is worth mentioning that brother Abu-'Ammar has received an oral message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Brother Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunis, who attended the meeting, said that in his message Andreotti expressed appreciation for the PLO's efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Italian prime minister praised Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. In his message, he pointed out that the Palestinian position on the crisis began to attract the attention of several international parties, and stressed that he who believes in a just peace should silence the drums of war threatening overall destruction.

To Soviet Leadership

JN2810181190 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent an important message to the Soviet

leadership, including ideas and proposals to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework and under an international umbrella.

Brother Abu-'Ammar conveyed the message during a meeting with the Soviet ambassador in Tunis yesterday. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Gulf crisis, the Jerusalem massacre, Israel's rejection of the UN Security Council resolutions, and its refusal to receive a UN mission to investigate the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre.

To PRC Leadership

JN2810182490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent an important message to the PRC leadership, including Palestinian ideas and proposals that can provide good grounds for joint international action to reach practical solutions to the Gulf crisis.

Brother Abu-'Ammar conveyed the message to PRC Ambassador Zhu Yinglu when he received him in Tunis the day before yesterday. They reviewed the latest developments in the Palestine question, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Source Denies 'Arafat Initiative on New League

JN2910191890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1620 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has stated the following: As part of the preplanned campaign against the Palestinian people and their leadership, some hired media organs have alleged that brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, has put forward an initiative to establish a new Arab League.

We do not know how these organs and those behind them—who are corrupting and buying the conscience of writers—invent such cheap lies.

Strangely, though no Palestinian or Arab League official has made any statement in this connection, these hired organs, which are moved by U.S. ruling quarters and the Zionist forces and their agents in the region, nevertheless fabricated the lie. Afterward, suspect pens began to write vulgar comments totally devoid of values and morals, exactly the same way they attempted to accuse the Palestinians of assassinating the speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly. The truth was revealed, however, when the groups that carried out the operation—whose members were all Egyptians—were arrested.

It is regrettable that some officials are being carried away by these tendentious campaigns against the Palestinian people and their leadership.

Qaddumi Praises Syrian Position on Gulf Crisis

JN3010073590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has praised the Syrian position on the Gulf crisis. He said this proves that Damascus supports the Palestine question and the defense of pan-Arab security against the Israeli-American forces of aggression, as Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] put it.

PLO Radio Defends Palestinian Position on Gulf

JN3010090990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Commentary by political editor entitled: "Portrait"]

[Text] The United States protects Israel. It asks the UN Security Council for more time to persuade the killers of the Palestinians to allow an examination of the victims' blood. And when the United States fails to do that, it reduces everything to its lowest level: regret. President Husni Mubarak unleashes his writers to wipe the Israeli knives of the blood of the martyrs in sacred Jerusalem. He issues decrees to confiscate agricultural land owned by Palestinians in Egypt and to disturb their safety in dark nights, thus carrying out terrorism that corresponds to Israeli terrorism.

The Gulf press and writers, who have never actually written anything except vulgar slanders, are continuing to chew on Palestinian flesh. The U.S. master is playing his game, confiscating opinions, decisions, hopes, and ambitions. U.S. and European forces are stationed on Arab land, intimidating, threatening, and warning of total destruction. All rational speech that is not in harmony with the unholy war cries of the U.S. forces commander, who likes to call himself the bear, are prohibited. Money flows like water, the press is being bought, and pens are paid to write. Everybody must give their consent in order to avoid the spilling of their blood. When the Palestinians were holding a dialogue with the Americans in the hope that this dialogue would take a serious course, they were viewed as committing a terrible crime. Suddenly, those who held them to be traitors and criminals and told them that the dialogue with the United States was useless—those who unleashed their propaganda against them—are now facing the same charges and insults. The United States has become their true friend. The Arab forces are now under U.S. command in the Gulf and any call for U.S. withdrawal and all hopes for a political solution are a blasphemy that must be punished by the shedding of blood and slandering of honor and conscience.

None of those who are betraying yesterday's principles talk about the indivisibility of legitimacy and its supremacy, or apply it to all issues of the same nature. Indeed, they are condoning double standards and slavishly submitting to what the United States decides. What is more, war preparations are paid very handsomely and

at exorbitant rates. The Arab League is wavering between two positions. The first is Egypt's insistence that the League submit to the cries of war that began at the suspect Cairo summit, where democratic decision-making was violated because the United States gave instructions that the decision be quick, decisive, and in a single, undisputed direction; and the second is the insistence of responsible Arabs that the Arab League policy not be a purely American one.

Suddenly, the United States began arranging things openly and within a system that includes Arab states, with Israel at its center and the U.S. as its leader and conductor. In doing all this, the United States is flaunting money that some are using to escape difficulties they would not have had but for the corruption and squandering of funds by the ruling classes here and there at the expense of the people.

It is really a tragic scenario and a situation that can only lead to disaster, further Arab fragmentation, and aggravating the gap between the majority and those who lead their peoples with tyranny, starvation, humiliation, and poverty. It is an overall situation that in form and substance violates stability and security. We do not think anybody will escape this fate. This narrow-mindedness, blind rage, and bad temper destroy vision and perspective and will carry the seed of total defeat.

It is a scenario to which we will not submit, nor will it be acceptable to those who have fought and sacrificed their precious blood. They are exerting efforts and they know that it would cost them dear. But they do not care because what is at issue are great principles that will help confront the terrible dangers. Disaster will be certain if they weaken or remain complacent.

Therefore, our position is not meant to create divisions or add fuel to the destructive flames of war. Our national and pan-Arab duty is to consolidate the noble forces to preempt the outbreak of war. Our reasoning with those blinded by rancor is a general policy by which we do not imitate anybody and on which we do not compromise. We will neither use mean language nor disseminate cheap lies, or reply to charges such as the participation of the Palestinians in Kuwait in the invasion of that country. We do not think that the Iraqi Army, which is forcing the United States to keep on its toes, needs such participation. As people fighting for a cause whose arena is in Palestine, we call for a solution that upholds peace against anything else. In short, this is our role. Nobody, regardless of the blackmail and pressures that are being exerted on us, will succeed in changing or reversing it. Those who do not understand and who are too short-sighted to see beyond their own noses, must carefully read the Palestinian people's history and examine the Palestinian struggle in occupied Palestine. They will discover that they have gone too far in their collapse and their humiliating capitulation to the U.S. master.

Spokesman on Zamir Report; Appeals to UN

JN2910193090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1618 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] An official media spokesman has stated the following: The Israeli Government has tried to provide cover for its full responsibility for the massacre at the al-Aqsa Mosque and the al-Haram al-Sharif through the issuance of the so-called Zamir report. The aim was also to deflect and obstruct the implementation of the Security Council resolution calling for an international inquiry into the massacre. This new farce by the Israeli Government shows that it is determined to continue the scheme of oppression and terrorism against the Palestinian people in Jerusalem and the entire occupied Palestinian areas.

The report essentially makes recommendations for imposing collective punishment on our people and seeks to obliterate the features of the massacre in Jerusalem and the subsequent massacres in the various Palestinian camps, cities, and villages. It imposes ridiculous and imaginary penalties against three police officers, to use them as scapegoats. But this can never cover the flaws or conceal the crime.

The PLO is calling on the Security Council to take a firm position to secure protection for our people under the yoke of occupation and curb Israel's criminal and terrorist methods. The PLO is of the view that U.S.-influenced procrastination and delaying tactics at the Security Council, the shameless bias in favor of Israel and its crimes and occupation, and the double standards in dealing with the region's issues and crises, especially the Palestine question, will only lead to further tension and to an explosion in the region. The PLO stresses that the protection of our people and sanctities is an Islamic and Christian Arab responsibility, and that securing this protection through international forces will open the door to evenhanded and actual solutions and prevent the eruption of a full-scale conflagration.

Commentary on Weapons of Struggle, Resolutions

JN2710213790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the extraordinary and unfair UN Security Council resolutions, resolutions of timid condemnation and regret, the Israeli occupation authorities have continued to escalate the policy of killing, murder, repression, and oppression against the masses of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories. In the face of bullets, gas bombs, arrests, the demolition of houses, and siege, they have nothing but shouts and stones to defend their right to a free and honorable life away from persecution, fascism, and aggression. Yes, following the UN Security resolutions, which are biased in favor of Israel and the United States, the occupation troops hysterically escalated the bloody policy of killing the

unarmed sons of our Palestinian people. This fact has undoubtedly become clear in holding the UN Security Council responsible for the Israeli occupation's continuation of these hideous crimes against the Palestinian people. Moreover, the UN Security Council is now directly responsible for these crimes as long as it accepts this comedy and agrees to submit to U.S. policy, which is lying in wait for any effective and resolute UN Security Council resolution against Israel, its crimes against the Palestinian people, and against the continuation of these crimes, which are aimed at annihilating our people.

And now, shall we ask what we should do regarding this international indifference to the most basic human rights in our country and regarding this slighting of our people's sufferings and pains, which has begun to encourage the murdering occupiers to shed further blood among the sons of our unarmed people? Shall we ask what we should do regarding the UN Security Council's acceptance of submitting to the will of the killers and their American and British protectors, and regarding its involvement in the crime of dividing legitimacy and tailoring it to fit the standards of U.S. policy and its aggressive objectives against the Arab nation? Perhaps we do not want to raise questions here, especially since we and our people know what we should do. The kitchen knives in our country are undoubtedly many, and our people's will and their determination to pursue resistance and national struggle until they wrest their full freedom and independence are far greater than any effect of the crimes of occupiers, regardless how varied and escalated.

If this is our response which will grow in the fields of the giant intifadah, our heroic fedayeen—with their Kalashnikovs, RPG's [rocket-propelled grenade], and Degtyarevs—will know their way to the body of occupation. They will overcome those fences with which the occupation has surrounded itself, to strike at its most vital joints and make it bleed in human beings, economy, and morale.

The occupation will lose much of its troops' and settlers' blood until it says: God is right, the Palestinian cause is right, and the Palestinian people's rights are right. And, while on the verge of comprehensive defeat, the occupation will see with its own eyes that the blood of Palestinians is not lost in vain.

This is what we will do. Yes, further steadfastness, resistance, and challenge. Further fighting, struggle, and confrontation with the stone, the shouts, the knife, the bullets, and the explosive device. We know this is our choice, decision, and destiny; namely, to confront the forces of evil, darkness, and aggression, and to give the dearest of our sons in return for freedom and independence, and for the sake of the comprehensive peace, the peace of justice, good, and right—the peace of Palestine, only Palestine.

Yes, this is what we will do. This is what we will continue to do. What will the international community—and, specifically, the UN Security Council—do for itself and for its civilized, ethical, and humanitarian values? What will it do to respect them in the first place, and to give them the credibility that will allow them to expand? What will it do to give democracy its proper meaning, give freedom its meaning and expressions, and give a demonstration of its concern for human rights and serious and effective stands?

We address this question to those states in the Security Council that claim independence regarding their policies toward the Middle East, while they are still unable in the Security Council to confront the policy of dividing legitimacy and the double standards employed by the United States through pressure, deception, maneuvering, and bribes. With this policy, the United States of America, together with Britain, is leading the entire world to an abyss of destruction and catastrophe. When will the world wake up to this fact? When will it take notice of it? This is the question of the future and destiny. Will the world answer it before it is too late?

If we are addressing this question to the world, what can we say to those Arabs who brought the U.S. military concentrations into our countries? Were those not the rotten fruits of your degeneration and collusion with the foreigner against the Arab brother? What can we say to those who are paying for the occupation of their countries and financing the aggression against our Arab nation? We will probably say nothing to them. Basically, he would have heard you if he were alive, but he whom you are calling is dead. [Arab proverb] God is the greatest. Death to the invading aggressors and occupiers.

VOP Decries 'Unjust' Anti-Palestinian Campaign

JN3010115490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestinian people, cause, and leadership have continued to be the target of a rabid, ugly, and unjust campaign by some Arab sides who have been wallowing in the U.S.-Zionist quagmire. This ugly and unjust campaign of words and deeds has reached the point of expelling Palestinians from certain states without giving any justifications; issuing unjust decisions to confiscate their property; leveling arbitrary accusations at them; instigating against them; lying about them; and overwhelming them with thick clouds of threats, injustice, and war. This has reached the point of threatening their means of livelihood and robbing them of their resident rights or travel permits.

It is common knowledge that this grotesque campaign of words and deeds against the Palestinians coincides in time and aim with the enemy massacres against the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland at al-Burayj camp, Rafah, Khan Yunus, the courtyard of Jerusalem's al-Haram al-Sharif, and in all parts of occupied Palestine. This campaign is also a clear punishment of the PLO because of its noble pan-Arab stands and its

profound pan-Arab vision, and the heroic Palestinian people's support for the PLO and its leadership's positions, its rejection of blackmail, and its refusal to compromise on pan-Arab destiny.

Before and after the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian people's cause and leadership maintained their sound approach, clarity of vision, and serious efforts for an Arab solution that would maintain the unity of the Arab family and ward off the threats and repercussions and burdens of external military intervention. The Palestinian leadership's aim was also to strengthen the general Arab order in order to give us, as a nation, a proper position in this world, which is changing around us.

However, the Palestinian vision, emanating from our profound experience and suffering, was unacceptable to some Arab sides. They closed all doors to this vision and did not want to listen. The reason is that the voice of the U.S.-Zionist master was, regrettably, reverberating in their ears, and because the temptations made them drool and lose their heads, and the criteria of the past to which they cling prevented them from seeing the substance of great facts. And when they took their first step toward the hostile camp, they lost, to our utter regret, their will to stop and prevent further deterioration. Indeed, they began to penetrate deeper into the labyrinth, isolating themselves from the spirit of their nation and its supreme interests and sacred fate. And because Palestine is the crux of the problem and the line separating facts from illusions, the pan-Arab option from the anti-pan-Arab option, they unsheathed their swords against it and poured out all their invective against it. Now they are continuing their ugly words and deeds in order to obtain the despicable reward.

We have seen their internal problems increasing, the gap between them and their people widening, and the great contradictions paralyzing their actions and resolution. We find them running after mirages and illusions. The United States, which promised them that the whole thing would be a quick picnic, is now taking a long time because the issue is much more complicated then they had imagined. The great Arab position taken by Palestine and many other Arab states is far-sighted with comprehensive vision and with a wide-ranging echo in several international centers, forums, and trends. Indeed, it is everyone's urgent call that the Arabs and nobody else must be effective and provide an Arab solution to save the world from the repercussions of total explosion.

Again, those who continue their ugly words and deeds against Palestine have bitterly discovered the harsh fact that they got a very cheap price for their ugly deeds. And despite the soundness of our choice and the corruption of theirs, our sound positions and visions and their erroneous stand and vision, we do not wish them to remain in the quagmire but hope they will rise to the level of their nation and to the level of challenge in this world of the strong. It saddens us indeed to see these Arab sides shed their skin, renounce their affiliations, and take a hostile stand toward the nation's sacred cause of Palestine in exchange for false illusions, fake dreams, and lies put into their heads by our devious enemies. We tell them: Do not waste yourselves. Do not sever your bridges with the future. Do not kill yourselves with your own hands, because you are losing your bet. The Palestinian people are a people with a cause. The people will not perish and the cause will never die. As for the enemies, they will be defeated.

Algeria

Ghazali Delivers Message to Mubarak

LD2910005290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali today delivered in Cairo a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Mr. Ghazali pointed out, in a statement to APS following his meeting with the Egyptian president, that his visit falls within the framework of continuous consultations and contacts dealing with the development in the Arab arena. Mr. Ghazali added that the most important matter is now to exert all efforts to avoid the catastrophe of a military operation aiming at destroying the capability of any Arab country.

Ghozali, UK's Waldegrave Discuss Gulf, Lebanon

LD2910093890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0100 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Late last night Foreign Minister Mr. Sid Ahmad Ghozal and Mr. William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, discussed bilateral relations and the developing situation in the Gulf and Lebanon.

Ghozali returned yesterday to Algeria after a tour of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt respectively, where he handed the leaders of these countries messages from President Chadli Bendjedid.

President Receives Waldegrave

LD2910092790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mr William Waldegrave, the British minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks dealt with the state of and prospects for developing bilateral relations.

After the reception the British minister of state for foreign affairs made a statement to the press in which he said: My talks with his excellency the president dealt with relations between Algeria and Britain and the need to strengthen them, especially in the shadow of the economic and political reforms now taking place in Algeria. He added that the talks also dealt with international political issues like the situation in the Gulf and Lebanon, and the Palestinian question, and the British view on the great Algerian efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis.

In reply to a question on the measures to which Algerians are exposed at British airports, the British minister of state for foreign affairs said: We have now a new system for visas granted to foreigners coming into Britain which tends to find solutions to the problems which used to confront us in the past.

FLN Head Reconsiders Convening Party Meeting

LD2910131690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Algerian news agency APS has received a cable from Hamid Mahri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee, addressed to Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN central committee, dealing with a call to convene a meeting of the FLN at its headquarters by a number of FLN members. The members had signed a statement, which was rejected by the Political Bureau as a basis for serious work to solve the country's problems and to modernize the FLN.

After describing the call for the meeting—which was published in the press as ambiguous—Mahri noted that this initiative, which he knows nothing about, has sparked a wave of questions by strugglers and Central Committee members. Consequently he called for its reconsideration, thereby leaving the FLN headquarters to continue to be a symbol of unity of the FLN Party and its leadership, and saving it from embroilment in marginal disputes.

Egypt

Ethiopian President Arrives for Two-Day Visit

NC3010102790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam arrived here this morning on a two-day visit to Egypt. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was on hand to receive the Ethiopian president at the airport.

'Crackdown' on Al-Jihad Continued; 130 Arrested

NC2910210490 Paris AFP in English 2030 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 29 (AFP)—Police rounded up another 130 Muslim fundamentalists Monday [29 October] in a crackdown on Al-Jihad organisation after the assassination of Egypt's parliamentary speaker, AL-AHRAM daily reported in its Tuesday edition.

Seventy people were arrested in Dayrut, near Asyut in southern Egypt, 50 in Suhaj governorate and 10 more in Cairo, the semi-official newspaper said. Six bombs, six firearms and an unspecified amount of TNT were seized.

Cairo newspapers also published the photographs of four alleged fugitives, wanted by police in connection with the assassination of parliamentary speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub on October 12.

Police arrested almost 400 members of Al-Jihad on Saturday and Sunday, according to press reports. The fundamentalist group is suspected by police of being responsible for the killing.

At least seven Islamic fundamentalists are implicated in the assassination of Mr. al-Mahjub, during which five other people were also killed, according to Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

The minister has also said Iraq-based Palestinians had infiltrated Egypt and planned to commit acts of sabotage.

Paper Reports Arrest of Israeli Bus Attacker

NC3010075090 Cairo MENA in English 0718 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, Oct 30 (MENA)—All three newspapers report on their front-(?page) the (?intensive) raid by the police on hideouts of "al-Jihad" [words indistinct] of the late People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

The raids led to the arrest of 030 [figure as received] members of "al-Jihad" and the seizing of six hand grenades and six rifles.

"AL-JUMHURIYAH" reported that the police have uncovered the culprits who raided a bus carrying Israeli tourists early this year, killing 11 of its occupants.

The paper said the police arrested a Palestinian teacher, who was positively identified by an Israeli woman tourist who was on the bus. He confessed to taking part in the assault on the bus.

Commentaries View Mubarak Tour of Gulf States

Cairo Radio on Pan-Arab Role

NC3010074490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "A Gulf Tour Which Confirms Egypt's Qualified Pan-Arab role"]

[Text] No doubt President Mubarak's tour of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and the Sultanate of Oman signals an important new era for Egypt's pan-Arab role. The tour's specific and tangible results were immediately reflected in the security, economic, and political domains. This is perhaps due to the deteriorating situation in the Arab Gulf region in view of the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait.

Egypt, armed with qualifications and history, has always stood beside every Arab group that came under attack or is under the threat of an attack. Strong Egypt is more capable of playing this role of confronting and deterring aggression. Therefore, it is not wrong to overemphasize that President Mubarak's tour has not only laid the groundwork for cooperation between Egypt and its sisterly states in the Gulf, but it has also laid the groundwork for an Arab strategy for regional security for now and after the end of the current crisis, after the complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of Kuwait's legitimate government.

If Gulf security, which constitutes an important mainstay in all Arab security, has enjoyed the lion's share of attention in President Mubarak's talks with the leaders of the states which he visited, it is because the current regional situation and its grave bearings, whose dimensions are unpredictable, has imposed itself as a sharp and urgent reaction to the Iraqi regime's stands, not only because of its occupation of Kuwait but because of Baghdad's hostile signals toward the Gulf brothers.

Therefore, the developments accompanying the crisis have prompted the regional Arab states to look for guarantees of their security so that Kuwait's tragedy might not recur. Egypt, in light of its pan-Arab commitments, had to play its pivotal role in preserving these guarantees and preserving the Gulf's security as well as the regional balance so that the door could be tightly closed to any foreign intervention in Arab affairs. This is what was reiterated by President Mubarak and the Arab leaders during this tour when they dismissed any security arrangements other than those originating in Arab countries.

Indeed, any talk about a future Arab security order cannot but be based on legitimacy in accordance with Arab charters and the UN Charter, something that cannot be achieved without Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. Some people's persistence in talking about an Arab solution to the crisis is deception leading to catastrophe. This is because Iraq's ruler, when he moved the crisis from its political course to its military course and massed troops in Kuwait and on the Saudi borders, drove away the Arab solution to the crisis and made room for international powers that are eager to maintain the balance of power in this strategic region.

The logical outcome of Kuwait's invasion was a concurrence between the security interests and security requirements of the region's countries and the economic and vital interests of these foreign forces. What happened was not the first occurence of its kind. Everyone inside and outside the Gulf region is aware that Iran's agreement to end the war with Iraq was not only connected to the outcome on the battlefield but was also connected to political, military, and economic factors similar to the factors which are now gripping Iraq's throat.

Therefore, those who are trying to turn the issue from one of invasion and occupation of an independent Arab state into one of an international military presence in the region, are the Arab nation's worst enemies. This is because they know that this invasion was an Arab stab in the Arab body and that the continuation of the occupation only means the continuation of Arab bleeding and the continuation of this presence. Hence, the Arab stand calls for total Iraqi withdrawal, restoration of the legitimate regime, and rejection of any partial solutions. When this is achieved, Iraq can return to the political framework, and an Arab solution based on dialogue and understanding can be considered. The movement of military forces and the economic embargo on Iraq would

not have happened had it not been for the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. For the first time, Arab legitimacy and international legitimacy concurred on security and interests.

We think that, three months after his invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Husayn has become aware of all of these facts and that he is aware there is no other way for him but to withdraw from Kuwait voluntarily. This is because the alternative, which is war, is alarming. If war breaks out, it will not spare the Iraqi people, army, and ruling regime. After withdrawing from Kuwait, Saddam faces another major task: attempting to change the Arab and world view of his regime, which has become a symbol of aggression based on the conceit of oppressive force.

AL-AKHBAR Extols Cairo's Role

NC3010073790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 28 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's main story in AL-AKHBAR is about President Mubarak's quick tour of some Gulf states. The paper says that amid the feelings of pain, tension, and anxiety that have prevailed in the Arab world since the start of the tragedy of the invasion of Kuwait at the hands of an Arab country, President Mubarak made a quick tour of Saudi Arabia and some Gulf states. Attention in these states is focused on anticipation of any further foolish step that Iraq's ruler, who has lost all sense of awareness, might venture to take. The tour was to reassure the brothers in these sisterly Arab states and to prove to the entire Arab nation that Cairo still places all its potential and its people's resources in defense of any Arab country threatened by danger from anywhere.

The paper goes on to say that despite claims by some, including Baghdad's tyrant, that Cairo has isolated itself from its Arab nation and given up the defense of its Arab sisters, time has proven the falsehood of these incorrect allegations and shown that Egypt and its Armed Forces were and always will be the strong shield for any Arab country facing aggression, or the threat of aggression, regardless of the source of aggression.

The paper points out that although Egypt did not expect aggression to come from an Arab, this did not shake Cairo's firm stand against this aggressor who sent his troops—which the Arab countries had assisted with money, arms, and men—to rob a small Arab neighboring country and tear apart the unity of Arab ranks.

The paper adds that Mubarak's visit to the Gulf region provided a good opportunity to affirm the feelings of mutual love and trust between Egypt and all the countries in the Arab region. Egypt, while standing in one trench alongside its brothers in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries to take part in protecting them against any looming danger, does not wish Arab soldiers to take up arms against fellow Arabs and still hopes that logic and reason will win at the last moment, thus avoiding Arab bloodshed and sparing a catastrophe that will not fall on the unjust alone.

Radio on Mubarak's Soviet, Italian Contacts

NC3010091090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt Is Keen on Encouraging a Peaceful Settlement of the Gulf Issue"]

[Text] The intensified diplomatic activity presently witnessed in Cairo, whether visits by high-ranking foreign officials or direct contacts between President Mubarak and many Arab and world leaders, confirms an important fact; namely, that Egypt is the cornerstone of any political activity in the Arab region. Egypt also plays a leading role at both the Arab and international levels because of its political and human weight and its historic national responsibility toward its Arab nation. Subsequently, Egypt must play an effective role in resolving all Arab problems.

In this light, we can conceive the significance of yesterday's talks between President Husni Mubarak and both the Soviet envoy Primakov, political adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev, and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, whose country is chairing the current session of the 12 EC member states.

To show the importance of President Mubarak's talks with the senior Soviet envoy, we have to note that the Soviet envoy had earlier visited several world capitals—Rome, London, and Washington—and had conveyed messages on the Gulf crisis from [words indistinct] to the leaders of these states. Furthermore, Primakov visited Cairo for the second time in two days to meet with President Mubarak and continue their talks on developments in the Gulf region in light of Moscow's role in finding a peaceful solution to the problem of Kuwait. The visit followed indications in both Moscow and Paris that the head of the Iraqi regime has changed his stand and implied his acceptance of a partial withdrawal from Kuwait, although Iraq has tried to deny that.

To state it more clearly, before Primakov headed for Baghdad to meet with Saddam Husayn and then return to Cairo, he wanted to know from President Mubarak what stand would be adopted by Egypt and the fraternal Gulf countries which Mubarak recently visited, on a possible solution for Kuwait's crisis that would rule out the use of the military option to force Saddam Husayn's surrender to the will of the international community.

According to Primakov's remarks following his talks with Mubarak, the Egyptian president is careful to establish international justice and to avoid the military solution. Primakov asserted that both Egypt and the Soviet Union share the view that the UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented and that the aggressor should not be rewarded for a crime he has committed against others.

As for Italian Foreign Minister de Michelis' talks in Cairo, they were held one day prior to the meeting of the EC leaders [words indistinct] to discuss the Gulf crisis. In other words, the Italian foreign minister wanted to learn about the Egyptian and Arab viewpoint from Cairo in particular, so the EC leaders can have a clear understanding of this viewpoint during their discussion of the crisis, which has a direct economic effect on Western Europe. The West European role cannot be ignored in helping to work out a just solution which avoids the use of military force. This is what might have made the Italian minister say that time was not in Saddam's favor.

Proceeding from Egypt's principled stand on deterring Arab or foreign aggression against any Arab state, as President Mubarak said earlier, and from the desire to give international legitimacy the chance to prevail over the law of the jungle which Saddam is using against Kuwait and the world, Egypt's viewpoint had to agree with the European and Soviet viewpoints on the need to consider ways to work out a peaceful settlement which complies with the UN Security Council resolutions and guarantees Saddam Husayn's unconditional withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy in fraternal Kuwait.

This is what the Iraqi leader must realize before it is too late. Tampering with peoples' destinies has grave repercussions, not only for the victim, but also for the aggressor. As it repeats its appeals to the head of the Iraqi regime to listen to reason and to surrender to the will of the international community and its rejection of the crime against Kuwait, Egypt proceeds primarily from its keenness to preserve the safety of the Iraqi people and to avoid squandering their human and financial resources on futile ventures, particularly since the Iraqi people have gone through a regrettable experience with Iran which cost them a great deal.

Moreover, Egypt is also keen to safeguard the integrity of the Kuwaiti people and all the peoples of the Gulf region. In the meantime, Egypt is keen to defend collective Arab national security because its own security is an inseparable part of the security of the entire region. Egypt is careful to avoid a collapse of the entire Arab system as a result of a hideous crime committed by the Iraqi ruler against a fraternal people.

Hence, Egypt's stand has been, still is, and will continue to be characterized by this keenness. As Mubarak asserted during his recent Gulf tour and after his meeting with the Soviet and Italian officials, Egypt will continue to encourage all international efforts, regardless of their source, to avoid an armed confrontation in the Gulf which would spare no one. This is what the head of the Iraqi regime should understand well. Egypt does not assume a hostile stand against anyone. It always backs rights, legitimacy, principles, and justice. Will Saddam Husayn realize this, reconsider his position, and respond to the will of the international community?

Commentary on Saddam's Possible Change of Heart

NC2910201590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "Has Saddam Husayn Begun To Understand That the Gulf Crisis Cannot Be Resolved by Obstinacy?"]

[Text] Ever since Iraq occupied Kuwait by force of arms, news agencies and other media have daily carried a flood of statements about the deteriorating situation in the Gulf and its future prospects. Those who follow these statements—whether emanating from official Baghdad sources or other Arab and non-Arab parties concerned with the Gulf crisis—will immediately realize that all of them have alternated between emphasizing either the peace option or the military option.

Sometimes these statements stressed the military option as being more likely, particularly statements coming daily from Baghdad. These statements were primarily aimed at circumventing the international economic embargo which recently began to tighten the noose around Iraq to the point that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decided to ration gasoline and grease. Yesterday, five days after this rationing was instituted, the Iraqi president abolished the decision to economize the consumption of fuel and dismissed the Iraqi petroleum minister.

This attitude on the part of the Iraqi president demonstrates Iraq's political, economic, and media bankruptcy after the entire world rejected its occupation of Kuwait. Indeed, various countries sent a multinational force to compel the Iraqi president to comply with international legitimacy which rejects the occupation of territory by force of arms and demands an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government in accordance with UN resolutions.

Ever since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi president has been playing the hostage card, using the hostages detained in Iraq and Kuwait as a human shield to prevent a military attack against Iraq. The Iraqi president frequently promised to release the hostages in order to prevent the world from lapsing into a state of desperation that might result in military action. The Iraqi president broke his promise every time. To keep the world from losing its patience, he has released a limited number of hostages every now and then.

It is a demonstrated fact that Saddam Husayn realizes that the hostage card is the only card he has left with which to contact the outside world. Within this context, the Iraqi president received a number of political envoys and public figures from various countries. Every time Saddam Husayn met these personalities, he asked them to carry messages to their countries. The aim of these messages was to blind international public opinion about his true intentions. He also hoped that some countries would stand by him in his attempt to profit by his occupation of Kuwait. The world, however, has been

united in the stand that the aggressor should not benefit from his aggression. Soviet President Gorbachev recently emphasized this point. U.S. President Bush also asserted that the United States will not accept any partial solution or be satisfied with anything short of a total, immediate, and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

The news now indicates that the multinational forces have completed their preparations and are now ready for a military confrontation with Iraq, particularly as the arrival of winter is considered a suitable time for the efficient performance of those forces and the effectivenss of their equipment. In light of this, it appears that the Iraqi president has begun to realize that there is no course for him but to comply with the logic of right and justice, represented by the international community's will, and has begun to open the door—although only in words—to the prospects of a peaceful solution to the crisis. This has been emphasized separately by the U.S. and Soviet presidents. The two presidents have stated that Saddam Husayn has begun to understand that the crisis cannot be resolved with obstinacy or by the threats and ultimatums which Baghdad's official sources occasionally issue.

The urgent question now is: Has Saddam Husayn actually begun to understand that the Gulf crisis cannot be solved by obstinacy and threats?

Tougher U.S. Stand Urged To Foil 'Excuses'

JN2910130490 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Oct 90 p 7

[Editorial: "The Siege of Pains"]

[Text] In his American tour for the mid-term elections of the Congress, U.S. President Bush faces predicted and undeniable difficulties. What he says, however, is not only for local consumption but he is accountable for it before the world.

Faced with some people's demand to bring his troops back from Saudi Arabia, Bush stressed in Iowa that these troops will return after achieving the declared goals and will not stay one more day, because the Desert Shield operation, in which these troops are taking part, is not aimed at protecting oil in the Gulf but at defending the principles and against the flagrant violation of international legitimacy.

Thus, the U.S. president is declaring his support for principles. Naturally, these principles are not only American, but international ones. He implicitly stresses that he is prepared to send his troops anywhere in the world to defend these principles and protect them against any aggressor. Even when his troops take "defensive positions," he stresses that he is prepared for war to give supremacy to those principles.

When this touches the Arab ear, and not only the American ear in Iowa or anywhere else, it sounds correct, beautiful, and worthy of all support. When the Arab mind thinks about it, however, the problem is that President Bush, as has been confirmed by various evidence and signs, is unprepared to take the same decisive stand, even without using his troops, to support the principles which Israel is violating, together with the international legitimacy, represented by the scores of UN resolutions which denounce both its occupation and practices in the occupied territories. There is still more in the Organization's [the United Nation] pocket, as is being confirmed every day by the Israeli acts themselves!

It may be said that the U.S. Administration recently has finally "tamed" those paradoxes. For example, it has supported the convening of an international conference to realize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights—which constitute a "bugaboo" as far as Israel is concerned—but only after resolving the Gulf crisis. However, the Arab mind is still unable to swallow this stand. This is because, regrettably, the experiences of the past show that the United States has procrastinated in the Palestine question, which it appeared able to resolve long ago if it had shown only a quarter of the zealousness it has shown toward the Gulf crisis since its beginning.

Regrettably, these are some of the pains upon which Saddam Husayn is touching. Some practical form of "siege" needs to be added to the sieges imposed on him so that the excuses with which he "deceives" some people, in view of the presence of U.S. contradictions, can be foiled.

Columnist on Joint Security With Gulf States

JN3010112290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Oct 90 p 12

[Article: "Dividing Lines" by Samir Rajab]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's tour of the Gulf states was a new initiative to create the nucleus for Arab solidarity founded on entirely different concepts and bases due the violent rift resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Experience has shown that the "regional councils" which were established by several Arab groups did not achieve the desired results. On the contrary, they produced the opposite results.

The Arab Cooperation Council grouping Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen was designed to serve as a means to achieve the personal ambitions of Saddam Husayn and those following his line. Were it not for Egypt's firm and sincere stand, the balances would have changed completely.

The Gulf Cooperation Council was also unable after the loss of a member state, Kuwait, to hold a single summit meeting in order to take a stand, agree on a firm "strategy" to cope with the emergency situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion, or study what steps to take after the termination of the invasion peacefully or by war!!!

As for the Arab Maghreb Union, it has failed even to tackle the regional problems of that remote part of the Arab World. Therefore, it was stillborn!!

Thus, the summit meetings which President Mubarak held with the Gulf leaders were important at this particular time. By all standards they ushered in a new Arab era.

With the Gulf crisis becoming more complicated day after day due to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's intransigence and arrogance, it has become essential to assert several basic principles:

First, withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territory without compromise.

Second, return of the legitimate government under any circumstances. Then, the Kuwaiti people would be left to make their own choice.

Third, pursuing the course of a peaceful solution to the end.

Fourth, military coordination between Egypt and the rest of the Gulf states so that each party will know its precise role when the need arises.

All these matters called for a frank and honest discussion, as well as an actual study on the ground. So, it can be said that a new beginning for joint Arab action is looming on the horizon which, if exploited well in the future, would compensate us for at least a part of the entity which has completely collapsed during the past three months.

Thus, President Mubarak made it a point to meet with all the Gulf leaders without exception. And, although Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman had already set up his annual "camp" away from the capital, Muscat, President Husni Mubarak made it a point to visit the sultan in his "camp" out of appreciation for Oman's previous political and economic stands toward Egypt and to acquaint the sultan with the dimensions and features of the new Arab strategy.

This new logical and rational Arab coordination is consistent with the present conditions for the following three main reasons:

1. The general world support for the Kuwaiti issue regarding the necessity of the Iraqi forces' withdrawal and the return of legitimacy. This is the first basis on which the thinking of the new Arab phase is founded.

2. If there are several Arab states supporting the opposite trend, these are limited in number. They also lack any world influence. All indications show that the peoples of these states are not pleased with the conduct of their rulers, who have hitched their destiny to that of Saddam Husayn. So they will either have to fall with him or, regretfully, go back on their actions. In either case, their loss would be great.

The Gulf leaders now realize more than at any time before who is the true friend and who is the enemy, and who also "plays" on the ropes. Therefore, whatever doubts they had before have been dispelled, and they are now certain that military security and economic security go together. They are inseparable.

Finally, there remains one word: The annals of history shall record that the period from 22 to 25 October 1990 has had the greatest effect in bringing about a radical Arab and international change, although this is not new to Egypt whose initiatives have always been realistic, sincere, and based on good assessments.

Official on Debts, Relations With Institutions

NC3010104390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, has stated that Egypt is pleased with the U.S. decision to waive $6.7 billion in military debts owed by Egypt, $6 billion of which represents the debt principal and $700 million the interest. These debts represent money received by Egpyt between 1980 and 1985.

In an interview with AL-AKHBAR published today, Dr. Makramallah said that Egypt appreciates U.S. President Bush's call for an international campaign to drop Egypt's outstanding military debts. President Bush's call comes in appreciation of President Husni Mubarak's moral stand on the Gulf crisis and in recognition of Egypt's role in the region.

Regarding the EC's stand, the minister of state for international cooperation said Egypt will soon begin negotiations to conclude the fourth financial protocol, the volume of which will not be less than the current protocol under which Egypt received 249 million European units of account in soft loans as well as 200 million more units as a grant (one unit equals $1.3). He pointed out that Egypt's debts amount to approximately $45 billion.

Regarding French President Francois Mitterrand's three-year campaign to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries and his stand toward Egypt, Dr. Makramallah said that we have to realize that some governments have reservations on writing off the debts in full because they take the taxpayers' position into consideration.

He pointed out that Mitterrand calls for writing off at least part of the debts and for repaying the remainder either at a reduced interest rate or over a longer period of time. In the meantime, he wants the developing countries to help themselves by introducing reform plans.

Asked about the privileges that Egypt will enjoy upon its return to the World Bank's International Development Agency after an approximately 10-year break, Dr. Makramallah said Egypt will obtain between $50 million and $70 million. More importantly, he said, Egypt will gain additional benefits when rescheduling its debts through the Paris Club, priviliges that will alleviate

Egypt's burdens, such as a reduction in the interest rate, increase in the grace period, and even waiver of part of the debts.

Regarding Egypt's relations with the World Bank, Dr. Makramallah said these relations cover various aspects. The bank is now certain of the soundness of Egypt's economic program and it is expected to give Egypt between $300 million and $500 million to streamline the economy through financing a number of development projects that will ease the citizens' burdens, he added.

He was then asked about the Egyptian-Gulf cooperation that witnessed a quantum leap following President Mubarak's recent tour, which led to the Gulf states' forgiving $6.6 billion in Egyptian debt. Dr. Makramallah said that dealings with the Arab financial funds, like the international financial institutions, require that projects to be financed by the funds be studied. Among the funds with which Egypt is dealing are the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Abu Dhabi funds for socioeconomic development.

Regarding Egypt's stand on the huge amounts owed by Iraq, Dr. Makramallah said they include the money owed to the Egyptians as well as the arrears owed to the Egyptian Telecommunications Authority. He pointed out that the Security Council is debating a proposal to seek reparations from Iraq, and Egypt hopes its rights will be covered under this proposal.

In conclusion, Dr. Makramallah stressed that the waiver of part of the debts, the rescheduling of the outstanding debts, and the recovery soon of the depositors' money in al-Rayyan [capital investment firm] will pave the way for a better future. He pointed out, however, that without hard work at all the work sites, the acceleration of growth rates, and Egyptian businessmen's initiative, the problem will continue to exist.

Libya

JANA Maintains Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks Distorted

LD2910142690 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] REUTER and Italian television have asserted that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attacked Muslim fundamentalists in his important speech last Friday on the occasion of the conclusion of the proceedings of the 13th meeting of the Revolutionary Committee Movement [RCM]—the day in which the 79th anniversary of the biggest operation to deport Libyan people by Italian invasion forces was marked. JANA denies any truth in the REUTER and Italian television reports—the brother leader of the revolution did not mention the fundamentalists at all in that speech—and affirms that such a fabrication is a clear distortion [words indistinct].

Such a distortion will, furthermore, harm primarily the reputation and the credibility of REUTER and Italian television, a matter that would lead their viewers to question the trustworthiness of their reports.

JANA's international affairs editor added: We urge all mass media organs to read, listen to, and view the brother leader of the revolution's speech in order to pinpoint the obvious distortion by REUTER and Italian television and see for themselves all the important issues that the brother leader of the revolution dealt with—issues that are of concern to people everywhere in the world.

Sudan

Rebel Radio Reports Release of Detainees

EA2910121090 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The ruling military junta in Khartoum has issued a decree on the release of 45 political detainees and trade unionists, thinking that this measure will ease its internal isolation and the external information onslaught against the violations of human rights in Sudan.

The list of those released included Mr. Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the head of state's council; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Qaddan; Dr. 'Usamah 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nur, director of the department of [word indistinct]; Ja'far Hasan 'Uthman; Hasan Muhammad al-Amin, public relations manager at the Kinanah sugar factory; Mr. (Adnan Za'ir) and others.

Al-Bashir Denies Reports of Famine

EA2910202790 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, has reiterated what he announced before that Sudan is not suffering, under any circumstances, from famine. There were, however, specific areas of Sudan which suffer a gap in the sorghum supply for lack of rain. These areas are Northern Kurdufan, Northern Darfur, and some areas of Eastern Region. At the same time there are food surpluses in Al Jazirah, Southern Blue Nile Region, Southern Kurdufan, and Southern Darfur.

In his meeting yesterday with key information and press men, Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that the food gap was represented by the two months between the planting of sorghum and the harvest of the new season. What this meant was that Sudan had food for about 10 months of the year. His excellency went on to say that there was no state which was totally self-sufficient in food except for a very few among the great powers.

His excellency referred to the subject of U.S. wheat and said that Sudan did not reestablish contacts with the United States to provide it with wheat over and above what Sudan had already bought and paid for. He stressed that Sudan was in a position to exact its legal right with

regard to the delivery of what it had already bought. He said that those quarters which believed that Sudan would alter its opinion because of the diversion of a shipload or more of wheat were completely deluded.

Lt. Gen 'Umar added that reports carried by the foreign news media about a famine in Sudan or an impending one simply aimed at distorting Sudan's image. They constituted attempts either to pressure Sudan or to create difficulties for it by agitating parasitic capitalism, which was likely to profit in the event of crop shortages. He stressed that the Sudanese people would silence all these through their sacrifice and production which would satisfy their needs and more.

Al-Beshir Views Al-Qadhdhafi Visit 'Successful'

EA2910203690 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and Council of Ministers, has stressed that the recent visit by the internationalist leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to Sudan was successful by all accounts. The leader al-Qadhdhafi participated with the the Sudanese people in celebrating the anniversary of the glorious October revolution. He also attended the closing session of the national dialogue conference on the political system and the delivery of the conference's recommendations and resolutions to the political leadership.

His excellency referred to the objective circumstances in both Sudan and the Jamahiriyah which led, in the past, to the postponment of the visit despite the integration announcement.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar added, in his periodic meeting with key information and pressmen yesterday at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, that talks between the Sudanese and Libyan leaderships had taken many long hours. The talks covered all aspects of joint activities between the two countries in addition to matters of common interest at the international and regional levels.

Referring to integration, he said numerous projects had been discussed as a prelude to their implementation. The RCC chairman said Col. al-Qadhdhafi had expressed confidence that the totality of the recommendations of the dialogue conference must be considered a new addition which could enrich the experience of the masses' republic in Libya.

He pointed out that the public rallies organized during Col. al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Al Aylafun, Khartoum, and Al Jazirah confirmed, without any argument, the extent of the popularity of the revolution and its penetration of the masses.

The meeting was attended by Colonel Faysal Madani; RCC member and governor of Kurdufan Region, medical Colonel al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, minister of presidential affairs; and Mr. Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, the minister of culture and information.

Tunisia

Tunisian, Moroccan Party Leaders Meet

LD2910190790 Rabat MAP in English 1322 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, Oct 29 (MAP)—Secretary General of the Tunisian ruling Constitutional and Democratic Rally (RCD) Abderrahim Zouari conferred here Saturday with Secretary General of the Moroccan Istiqlal Party (Nationalist Opposition) M'hamed Boucetta.

Talks focused mainly on means of promoting further the longstanding relationship and cooperation between the two political parties in particular and between the different Maghreban parties, at large, in order to actively participate in the consolidation of the Arab Maghreb Union and thus meet the aspirations of the peoples of the region, Tunisian news agency TAP said.

In addition to Maghreban affairs, the two sides also reviewed the latest developments on the international scene and particularly in the Gulf crisis, stressing in this respect the need to exert all efforts to reach a peaceful and fair settlement to this problem, TAP said.

On the Palestinan issue, leaders of the two Maghreban parties reiterated their backing to the Palestinian peole's struggle under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to recover their legitimate rights and establish their independent state.

Bahrain

Six Marines Reported Killed in Ship Explosion

JN3010111790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In an urgent report from Bahrain, six U.S. Marines were killed and four others received serious injuries this morning in an explosion on the U.S. helicopter carrier USS Iwo Jima anchored at Salman port in Bahrain.

This morning also a German source said that a U.S. helicopter crashed in Germany last night while carrying out night exercises and that the two pilots were killed.

Crown Prince, UK Military Official Discuss Gulf

JN3010064090 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 29 (GNA)—Bahraini Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Bin-Isa Al Khalifah received here today the chief of the British defence staff, marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir David Craig, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, the current developments in the Gulf region and other issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by head of the crown prince's office Shaykh Khalid Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, Chief of Staff of the Defence Force Brigadier Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, British Ambassador to Bahrain Mr. John Alan Shepherd and chief of staff for intelligence and security Colonel Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Salman al Khalifah.

Foreign Minister Cited on Riyadh GCC meeting

JN3010064590 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 29 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah returned home from Riyadh this afternoon after attending the extraordinary 13th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council, ended there earlier today.

In a statement to GNA, Shaykh Muhammad said the GCC Ministerial Council has discussed the Iraqi vicious invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent impacts.

He said the Council also evaluated all regional and international contacts and efforts exerted to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, the return of the legitimate government led by H.H [his highness] the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the Iraqi intransigence towards resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and the Arab League which call for the Iraqi withdrawal.

Shaykh Muhammad said the Council has deemed the Iraqi regime responsible for the dangerous and tense situation in the Gulf and the destructive consequencies of the intransigence of this regime.

The Council stressed the importance of intensifying diplomatic and informational efforts to expose maneuvers of the ruling regime in Iraq, Shaykh Muhammad said.

He added that the Council has condemned the Iraqi regime's atrocities in Kuwait which aimed at destroying its basic structure and its geographic and demographic nature.

Kuwait

Ambassador Accuses Iraqis of Atrocities

LD2910102990 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0934 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Iraqi authorities in occupied Kuwait have pulled the nails out of detainees and put drills through their toes, the Kuwaiti ambassador in London said today. Mr. Ghazi al-Rayyis, whose brother-in-law was reported to have been imprisoned and tortured then taken home and executed on his doorstep, described the activities of the Iraqis as "horrifying".

The ambassador told BBC Radio 4's "Today" programme: "When they take somebody and they bring them back and kill them in front of his family, they find marks on his body everywhere. His nails have been pulled out, there are marks of burning, there are drills through their toes and all these things. It is not imagination at all and if you can ask those who have worked in hospitals, you would be horrified because such acts we have never heard except in medieval days."

A Kuwait petroleum worker who escaped to Britain told the same programme about Iraqis beating people and giving them electric shocks.

Kuwaitis were becoming increasingly desperate for their plight to end, a Kuwait Government minister said in Scotland today.

Faced with atrocities by Iraqi troops, deteriorating living conditions and a shortage of food and petrol, Kuwaitis are urging their exiled government for action to end their ordeal—by Western force if necessary. They are now so desperate that they welcome the sound of bomb explosions, thinking an invasion to liberate them might have begun.

Dr. Nasser al Abdulla [name as received], deputy minister for career development, told a news conference in Glasgow: "They are in favour of solutions that may include war. We as Kuwaiti outsiders would like to see a peaceful solution. But it is now three months, and the people there just can't wait. That is the message they keep telling us."

The minister, with Kuwait TV journalist Adeeb Essa [name as received], was starting a nationwide tour to gather support for a "free Kuwait day" to be staged in London on November 2.

Up to 4,000 Kuwaitis may have been killed since the invasion, with 20,000 now held as "human shield" hostages, said Dr. Abdullah.

The two men said the Kuwaiti resistance movement was still functioning, but would give no details.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Soviet Envoy Primakov

LD2910231890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, at his office at Al- Salam Palace in Jeddah today received Mr. Yevgeniy Primakov, the personal envoy of the Soviet president and accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; his excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; his excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and cabinet member; his excellency Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir; and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for Political Affairs 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri.

The personal envoy of the Soviet president arrived in Riyadh today on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Primakov Mission Called Last Chance for Peace

JN2910071590 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Last Mission"]

[Text] There is much talk about peace and less talk about war as Soviet envoy Primakov continues his diplomatic mission. Although no one has announced or even predicted the details of this mission, it is, after all, an effort by a mediator currently accepted by all sides to prevent the explosion in the Gulf or at least postpone it for a while in the hope that Saddam Husayn may return to his senses and abandon his insistence on throwing himself and his people into an abyss in something akin to mass suicide. History will record the consequences of this against him, and future generations will not forgive him for it.

Primakov's mission is the last in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Baghdad ruler must understand this, and he should stop his desperate attempts to split the cohesive international alliance against him, which will continue until he ends his occupation of Kuwait and backs down on his threats to all Gulf states. The entire world understands Saddam's maneuvers and his play with the card of hostages in the worst ever wager with human feelings. Perhaps the Security Council's readiness to adopt the 10th resolution against Iraq in less than three months is best proof that the world is increasingly determined to deter the aggression and stop Saddam's threats to the foundations of the new world order which are currently being laid down thanks to the serious detente between the two superpowers.

At the same time, preparations are under way for all probabilities including resort to the military solution in case the Baghdad dictator aborts the Soviet mission. The conduct of the Iraqi regime, however, suggests that Primakov's mission is difficult. There are reports of mounting Iraqi concentrations in Kuwait and on the border with the Kingdom and about reorganization of the Iraqi forces in Kuwait in a manner that allows them to move from defense to attack in a short time. Therefore, caution is needed, and all necessary steps should be taken to convince Iraq's tyrant that war is inevitable if he does not back down on his intransigence and stop his tyranny.

King Fahd Briefs Ministers on Mubarak Meeting

LD2910193490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 29 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, this afternoon at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah chaired a meeting convened by the Council of Ministers.

After the meeting, his excellency Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY in which he explained that the cabinet began by reviewing all reports concerning the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region in the light of the stands expressed by some Arab and Western states concerning the Arabian Gulf crisis.

Afterward, the cabinet listened to the custodian of the two holy mosques, who made a comprehensive comment on events while explaining the attitude of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom toward these events within the framework which the custodian of the two holy mosques had announced two days ago through the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY regarding the basic stands on which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia built its crucial and clear attitude toward the tyrant Iraqi aggression against the fraternal state of Kuwait.

In this connection, the custodian of the two holy mosques briefed the Council of Ministers on the result of the meetings and talks he had with his brother leaders of the Arab and Islamic states, beginning with his excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who was described by the custodian of the two holy mosques as a man of true and honorable stands in defense of the Arab nation, in the service of Islamic issues, and in upholding right from his standpoint of deep conviction in the justice of the causes he defends, foremost of which is the Arabian Gulf crisis. [passage omitted] The custodian of the two holy mosques also recently met with his excellency the Soviet Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Mr. Katushev, with whom he discussed ways of strengthening trade relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'Source' Replies to Yemeni 'Accusations'

LD2910165490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In his comment on some of the paragraphs of the interview given by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the NEW YORK TIMES published on Friday 8 of this month of 1411 AH corresponding to 26 October 1990 A.D., a responsible source told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY today:

We did not want to hurry to comment on the excerpts of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's interview—just in case there was some distortion as a result of mistranslation or misunderstanding of what he so rudely and excessively said—until we saw the full text of the interview. Therefore, after we became sure that his excellency [Salih] has removed all the false masks covering up his inner self, we say to him:

Mr. President, we would like to refute your accusations and violations of the truth using calm, well-balanced words, as we always do in all our media organs, and with the same objectivity and credibility we are accustomed to in revealing the truth to the people when the deceived and deceivers try to invert the truth for reasons we know but hold ourselves above mentioning.

We will summarize our commentary on your interview in the following:

First, Mr. President, you told THE NEW YORK TIMES that you criticized Saudi Arabia for inviting foreign forces to the Kingdom, challenged our justification for the presence of these forces, and accused Riyadh of working toward what you called destabilizing Yemen by adopting measures which forced more than half a million Yemenis to leave Saudi Arabia and return to their country after being deprived of their possessions and maltreated at the borders. You described the ruler of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, as an excellent Arab leader and good Arab nationalist.

Our comment is that you are cheating yourself, deceiving your feelings, and insulting the intelligence of your people. You know our reason for inviting these fraternal and friendly forces, and you know the secrets of the base conspiracy schemed by the Baghdad ruler against Kuwait and hence against Saudi Arabia, and some say but we do not, that you are one of his partners in this conspiracy. When God defeated his work and exposed his secrets to the world, and when the loot you were hoping for was lost—when God inspired the custodian of the two holy mosques to take the correct decision at the right time—you came out with lies and condemned and criticized us for protecting the citizens and defending ourselves, our homeland, honor, and sanctities. You tried in vain to distract the people from the appalling crime committed by the ruler of Iraq against a peaceful, stable, independent country; against a people who were dispersed and persecuted; the blood of whose children was spilt; and whose women were raped by Saddam Husayn, and also against a leadership which has always extended a helping hand to Baghdad when in difficulties.

Then you say about Saddam that he is an excellent Arab leader and a good Arab nationalist. This is how you see him, Mr. President, with your eye of flattery, while the whole world sees him otherwise. The writers, historians, political commentators, and psychologists described him using the adjectives he deserves.

As for you saying that Riyadh works toward destabilizing Yemen by adopting measures which forced half a million Yemenis to leave Saudi Arabia, hundreds of our Yemeni brothers testified before the cameras, in voice and picture, that you are not telling the truth. What we have publicly relayed is a sufficient reply to your accusation and will demonstrate the truth and defeat the lies. We have repeatedly announced that the brother Yemenis who left Saudi Arabia have left voluntarily and took with them all the money and possessions they earned. We do not want to add to this fact which is proved by millions of witnesses.

Second, the newspaper said that you accused Saudi Arabia of working over the years toward destabilizing your country and of deliberately distorting Yemeni policy toward the Gulf crisis so as to present Yemen as pro-Iraq. We wonder, could the country which supported you and gave generously to you and to the loyal brothers—the sons of your people—everything that helped you in shouldering the burden of government and preserved your regime, be conspiring against you? Could the country which opened its treasures for the building of institutions and hospitals and establishing scientific colleges; which bought all kinds of weapons for you, including squadrons of aircraft and most advanced equipment; paid on your behalf the salaries of doctors, teachers, and technicians; paved the roads for you; built the dams for you; built the airports for you and maintained them; and along the years rescued your budget from deficit, [could this country] be working to destabilize your country? Could the country which hastened to stand by your country in time of natural disasters,

difficulties, and crises want to harm you? We leave the answer to the sons of your people, and we also leave it to any clever person.

Third, the NEW YORK TIMES attributed to you that you confirmed in your interview that Saudi Arabia, even before the Gulf crisis, tried to destabilize Yemen through paying unlimited funds to the leaders of the armed tribes in North Yemen near the Saudi borders to incite disturbances. We regret the extent of fallacies you have gone to in this context, which indicate the extent of your insistence on the accusations. We would like to remind you that Saudi Arabia has always been an aide and supporter to you and fraternal Yemen in every difficulty. Saudi Arabia has never tried to harm you or any Yemeni brother during your era or the era of any of your predecessors. It is not among the Saudi policies to interfere in the affairs of others, because it also rejects anyone interfering in its affairs. From this starting point your accusation answers you, and if you wish we can reveal what we are silent about. Fear God and say the truth.

Fourth, you told the magazine in your interview that Saudi Arabia tried to bribe South Yemen to pull out of the union and accused his royal highness the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of trying to pay off South Yemeni officials to thwart the union, and the rest of what the magazine published quoting you. We, while we find your interview ridiculous, dare to say that not even one word was true in your cheap accusations. Once more, we would like to stress that it should not be forgotten that the first person who congratulated you on the establishment of the [YAR-PDRY] union was the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and that the first statement, which was issued by the Kingdom's Council of Ministers following the union, clearly expressed the Kingdom's blessing for such an union as well as its support at all levels. The Kingdom did, however, take such a stance out of its eagerness to preserve good-neighborliness and to be good to its neighbor even if the latter has acted unfairly. Moreover, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is above harming and would not lower itself to conspire against you. It is much better than your depictions, O Your Excellency Mr. President.

Fifth, we feel sorry for you, given the base level reached by your thinking when you told the magazine that the Saudis were very horrified by the freedom enjoyed in Yemen. Congratulations on your freedom if only your esteemed people enjoy in Yemen some of the freedoms being enjoyed by the Kingdom and its people—freedom guaranteed by Islam for all sorts of practices and dealings to protect the individual, to make him happy, to protect his dignity, honor, and property, and provide him with all the means for a dignified life as well as to safeguard his security, safety, and the freedom of his dealings within the framework which guarantees the safety of the society, brings about solidarity between its strata and work for its harmony, prosperity, and progress. Hollow words, which do not go very far, should not, however, draw our attention at all, nor be part of our calculations.

Sixth, your imagined assertions in your interview with regard to your heroic stance at the Arab League and the United Nations as well as your laughable justifications regarding your meeting with your ally Saddam are all naked prattle which no one believes.

Last, please take it easy, Mr. President, and mean what you say. The whole world stands today by the side of what is right after knowing the hidden truths; the hirelings are the only exception.

National Guard Leader Stresses War Readiness

PM2610152390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
25 Oct 90 p 5

[Unattributed interview with Staff Major General Prince Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, "deputy chief of the Saudi National Guard Military Organ," in Riyadh; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How is coordination maintained among the forces of the armed sectors in Saudi Arabia, especially between the Army and the National Guard?

[Prince Mit'ib] The Saudi Armed Forces with all their sectors are one entity. They are under the command of the supreme commander, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him. The National Guard is a strong arm in these forces and takes orders from the supreme commander in accordance with the sequence of command and the joint operations staffs.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Numerous combat tasks are assigned to the National Guard Military Organ. May we have an idea about them?

[Prince Mit'ib] The combat tasks assigned to the National Guard are those defined by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. They include the defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any aggression. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It is known that the National Guard's pillar is the Kingdom's tribes. Is there any intention to expand recruitment to include all citizens?

[Prince Mit'ib] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the homeland of all its sons without discrimination. There is no discrimination between tribes and others, and the comprehensive cultural progress has molded citizens together into one spirit and one heart. Admission and recruitment to the National Guard are open to whoever wishes to join. Selection is conducted according to objective criteria related to physical fitness and suitability for military life, that is all.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It is known that Kuwait has its own national guard. How much cooperation is there between your organ and the Kuwaiti National Guard outside and inside Kuwait?

[Prince Mit'ib] Before the disaster of the sinful invasion of Kuwait there were friendly and brotherly ties with the Kuwaiti National Guard. Visits were exchanged and coordination was maintained within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council. And I pray to God to restore Kuwait's sovereignty and legitimacy so that its national guard will remain inside not outside it. The Kuwaiti Armed Forces with all their sectors are present within the framework of the Peninsula Shield. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What types of new, advanced weapons does your organ intend to equip itself with?

[Prince Mit'ib] The weapons in our possession now are new, advanced, and of excellent quality. But if new needs arise and the command sees that the situation requires new weapons of a certain type, their acquisition presents no problem. This is because our leadership—first and foremost King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, may God protect him, and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, may God protect him—spares no efforts to secure all necessary armament elements for the National Guard to enable it to carry out its tasks and play its roles.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] As an authoritative military man who has access to a lot of extraordinary information, how reliable are media reports about Iraq's human and military capabilities? Some describe these reports as very exaggerated.

[Prince Mit'ib] The proverb says: "If your enemy is an ant, do not ignore it." Over eight years Iraq showed military strength that cannot be ignored. And we had hoped and continue to hope that those capabilities will remain a shield for the Arabs, not a spear in their hearts. But whatever the situation, I do not believe that Iraq's capabilities will be able to resist the huge deployment defending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, namely the Saudi Armed Forces, the Peninsula Shield forces, and the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces. It is, of course, possible to exaggerate, but there must be the highest possible level of preparedness. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Media reports have said that, if a war with Iraq breaks out, some of Saudi Arabia's neighbor states would participate in opening other fronts. Is that possibility likely or not? And, if it is, would the National Guard have an effective role in confronting some fronts?

[Prince Mit'ib] Although I do not like to think badly of anyone, the alert military man applies the principles of circular defense, and he cannot turn his back to anyone. The National Guard together with the Armed Forces sectors is ready to intervene in any area of Saudi Arabia's territory. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does Staff Major General Prince Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz believe that a peaceful solution to the crisis can be achieved, and, if so, how?

[Prince Mit'ib] A peaceful solution is still possible. The decision is in Iraq's hands, and responding to the voice of reason is more honorable than sticking to falsehood. And withdrawing from a losing battle is better than continuing it. In history there are many armies which withdrew from losing battles and their withdrawal was the object of appreciation. The world as a whole is demanding two clear things: withdrawal from Kuwait, and the restoration of legitimacy represented by the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir. And there can be no solution without that.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What will you do if a war breaks out tomorrow?

[Prince Mit'ib] If the war breaks out today or tomorrow, we are ready, God willing. And soon the unjust assailants will know what a turn their affairs will take. [Koranic verse] We are defending our country and our brothers' right to security, and we will not allow the invasion to continue.

USSR's Katushev Meets With Foreign Minister

LD2610211790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2034 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, conferred in the Palace of Conferences this evening with Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and an accompanying delegation. They discussed future economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and the means to consolidate their bilateral relations. The meeting was attended by the head of the economic and cultural department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Muhammad Ma'mun al-Kurdi; head of the Western Department at the ministry, Ambassador Dr. Nizar Ubayd Madani; and the director general of external relations at the Ministry of Trade, Ahmad al-Umayr.

Confers With King Fahd

LD2710212190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Oct (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God preserve him—received at his office at Al-Salam Palace today the Soviet Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and members of his delegation, in the presence of Saudi Minister of Commerce Sulayman al-Sulayyim.

Defense Minister Meets Canadian Defense Official

LD2910131890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received in Jeddah this afternoon General Dr. John de Chastelain, Canadian chief of Defense Staff, who was accompanied by the Canadian deputy defense minister.

The meeting was attended by Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff, and a number of senior Armed Forces officers.

Yemen

Nation To Refer Saudi Disputes to Arab League

JN2610202390 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Oct 90 p 1

[By Mahmud Ma'ruf from AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI office in Rabat]

[Text] The Yemeni Government is holding talks with other Arab capitals to gauge the possibility of including the subject of Yemeni-Saudi relations on the working schedule of the coming Arab League Council's ordinary session. These relations have witnessed mounting tension since last August because Sanaa did not support the Arabian Gulf states' invitation to foreign forces, consisting mainly of U.S. forces.

Responsible Yemeni sources told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the Yemeni Government has prepared a draft project containing three points regarding relations with Riyadh which will be presented to the Arab League Council.

First, the Yemeni Government is asking the Saudi Government for compensation regarding damages incurred to the Republic of Yemen (the northern part) from 1968 to 1970—the years of the Yemeni-Saudi war which flared after the 26 September Revolution in 1962 because of Riyadh's support for Imam Muhammad al-Badr, who was removed from power. The Yemeni memorandum holds the Riyadh Government responsible for the violence and sabotage that took place in Yemen throughout the eight years; however, the memorandum does not include any fixed amounts.

Second, compensation for the Yemeni community in Saudi Arabia, numbering 2.2 million people, for their contribution toward building the Kingdom. Compensation for their property, losses, and damages which befell them as a result of the Saudi Interior Ministry's decision of 19 September 1990 stipulating that a Yemeni national requires a Saudi sponsor to be allowed to practice any trade or professional work in the country.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani stated during the Arab League Council's emergency session held in Tunis last week that this decision has harmed hundreds of thousands of Yemenis, and that over 350,000 Yemenis have returned to Yemen, leaving behind money, property, and rights they have earned over scores of years of hard work and toil.

It is noteworthy here that the Yemeni Government had earlier declared that the value of the sums the Yemenis used to transfer from Saudi Arabia amounted to $4 billion a year.

Third, a demand for the cancellation of the 1936 al-Ta'if agreement which defines the course of Yemeni-Saudi relations until the end of 1996. This agreement, signed by Imam Yahya and King Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, stipulates keeping the borders as they were during that period on condition that they will be redrawn later on. In return, the Yemenis can receive permits to enter and work in Saudi Arabia. The agreement points out that its timespan is 20 years and is automatically renewable unless one of the two sides expresses a desire to amend or cancel it with sufficient advance notice.

The Yemeni memorandum includes a demand that the Saudi authorities take their hands off Yemeni lands which fall outside the 1936 al-Ta'if agreement as soon as possible. These are lands whose area amounts to thousands of kilometers and whose return was demanded by both Sanaa and Aden before the establishment of Yemeni unity state last May, in official memorandums addressed to the Riyadh Government. Riyadh's responses had affirmed that the issue of these lands can be settled within the framework of a comprehensive demarcation of the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

The sources said that a number of Arab heads and kings had officially asked the Saudi officials, following a Yemeni request, to reduce the unjust measures applicable to the Yemeni community. However, Riyadh did not respond. They added that the Yemeni Government would have evaluated Riyadh's response, had it come, and would not have been forced to preoccupy the Arab League Council with this problem, which is dangerous to inter-Arab relations. In response to a query by AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI regarding the next Yemeni step if the Arab League Council does not take the appropriate measures, the Yemeni sources responded that Sanaa still believes in the need to solve all Arab issues within the Arab family, even if it must take place at the expense of Yemen and its citizens.

Saddam Calls for 'Vigilance' in 'Next Few Days'

JN3010115890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command today.

During the meeting, some of the preparations required for fighting inside cities in the operations theater in the Governorate of Kuwait was discussed. During the meeting, the leader president stressed the need for high vigilance and caution regarding the treacherous intentions of the American enemy and its allies within the next few days, and for preparing everything God has given us in terms of might and capability to confront this enemy if its evil inclination lets himself be seduced into carrying out aggression against the Iraq of the nation and glory. God will aid the believers.

Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, members of the Armed Forces General Command, and security officials in the Governorate of Kuwait attended the meeting.

'Aziz Welcomes Gorbachev, Mitterrand Remarks

JN3010103790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has described the statements made by Presidents Mitterrand and Gorbachev as having included advanced positive elements in two essential aspects: first, the concentration on peaceful means for tackling the region's problems, and second, the admission that there is linkage among the region's issues, even if this admission has not come as desired.

Commenting on the Soviet and French presidents' news conference in Paris yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz said, in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: Iraq will respond to the efforts being made by the USSR and France with an open mind and sincere intentions based on President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, and it accepts dialogue with any Arab or international party that is not prompted by any premeditated hostile purposes.

Tariq 'Aziz said: Before the Franco-Soviet summit, I made a statement on 23 October in which I voiced hope that the meeting in Paris between President Gorbachev and President Mitterrand would be an occasion for these two countries to demonstrate stronger interest in the region's problem on a comprehensive basis aimed at realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region.

'Aziz went on to say: After the end of the French summit on 29 October, the media carried statements by Presidents Gorbachev and Mitterrand at a joint news conference in Paris, and irrespective of the unfair and inaccurate comments made in these statements about Iraq's position. [sentence as received]

The foreign minister voiced Iraq's interest in and welcome for these positive elements and called on the French and Soviet sides to continue endeavors in this direction, affirming that Iraq will continue to be ready for further dialogue on how to crystallize positions that are more balanced and comprehensive in dealing with the region's problems.

Answering an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY question on China's position on these problems, the foreign minister said: The Chinese foreign minister intends to pay a visit to Baghdad and other capitals in the region soon and we welcome this visit.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that it seems to us now that the stands of the Soviet Union, France, and the PRC toward the situation in the Gulf and the region's issues in general differ, in terms of their nature, means, and objectives, from the stand of the United States and Britain. He said: Certainly, the United States and Britain have imperialist objectives in the region. These objectives clash severely with the Arab nation's interests and objectives. However, there is a basis for the establishment of cooperation, understanding, and honest mutual interests between the Arab nation on the one hand and the Soviet Union, France, and the PRC on the other, along with all the states that seek to establish honest friendship with the Arab nation.

Soviet-French Pledge to Political Solution Sought

JN3010074990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni in Baghdad]

[Text] Iraq is willing to release all foreign nationals held as deterrent against attack in return for a Soviet-French commitment that the Gulf crisis would be resolved through political means, a senior Iraqi official said Monday.

The official said this was a compromise reached between the Iraqi leadership and Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov after the Soviet envoy insisted on the American position demanding total and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and release of all foreign nationals held in Iraq and Kuwait.

"Such a (Soviet-French) commitment will pave the way for a serious political process and movement towards a diplomatic solution to the problem," said the official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"If this happens, then the issue of foreign nationals will be dealt with in a different manner," the official said. When pressed whether this meant a release of all foreigners held as

"guests" by the Iraqi authorities, the official said: "Once the diplomatic process gets under way there is no need for the guests to remain in Iraq or Kuwait."

A senior Arab diplomatic source said the initial position adopted by Primakov, who arrived here Saturday and left for Saudi Arabia Sunday, "disappointed the Iraqis since he insisted on Iraq meeting the American demand for unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and release of all foreigners."

However, "after extended talks, a compromise was reached and Primakov flew out with the Iraqi offer," he added. Earlier, Baghdad had called for an American undertaking not to attack in return for freedom of all foreign nationals.

According to the source, Iraq had welcomed Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's call, issued in Paris Monday, for an Arab initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Departure of 276 French Nationals Reported

JN2910193990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Following orders from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn that French nationals hosted by Iraq be allowed to depart or stay in the country as they chose, 276 of their number left for home this evening aboard a special Iraqi flight. Interviewed by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the departing French expressed appreciation for his excellency the leader president's gesture, calling it a serious step on the road of bolstering relations between the Iraqi and French peoples.

Mr. (Jacques Yanisky) said the decision giving them the option of staying on or leaving Iraq reflects a will on the part of Iraq to consolidate friendship with the French people. He has experienced this firsthand through the good treatment he has received, he said. A peaceful solution to the regional crisis should keep the specter of war at bay, he added.

Jean Michel described the decision as an illustration of the Iraqi people's will to establish peace through diplomacy rather than war. He indicated that he stands by his Iraqi friends as they seek to bring about comprehensive and durable peace in the region. (Pierre Jean) said that he is glad he is being allowed to meet with his family, and wished peace to the Iraqi people who have overwhelmed him with their kind attention during his stay as a guest. (Bertslav Berdik) said he highly appreciates the leader President Saddam Husayn's decision to afford French nationals the choice of staying on or leaving Iraq. He noted the attention he received during his stay in Iraq as a guest of its people for whom he harbors sentiments of friendship.

Italian Hostage Refused Exit Visa With French

AU2910201790 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Hayange, France, Oct 29 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities refused an exit visa Monday to a man who had lived in France for 35 years, was working in Iraq for a French company and sought to leave as a Frenchman.

Leonard Cantone, who holds an Italian passport, was expected to be among the 270 or so French hostages who were flying home to France on Monday night.

His wife, Elsa, who lives in Hayange in eastern France said the French foreign ministry had confirmed that Iraqi authorities refused to consider her husband as a French hostage.

Mrs. Cantone said she had spoken to her husband by telephone on Sunday night and that he seemed very depressed. He was aware he would not be allowed to leave with the other French hostages.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Italian Communist party, Achille Ochetto, said that "all humanitarian initiatives possible must be undertaken to obtain the release of all the hostages held in Iraq."

His remarks were contained in a letter written to the Italian hostages and published in Rome in response to repeated calls by Italian hostages there for political authorities in Italy to do something to help them.

Mr. Ochetto said he had spoken to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat on their behalf and had also asked Iraq's former ambassador to Italy, Mohammed Said Kadim Al Safah "to be our mouthpiece concerning the deep concern we feel for the hostages."

National Assembly Addresses French People

JN2910215390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2105 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—The National Assembly has sent a message to the friendly French people regarding Iraq's French guests being allowed to leave the country or stay, as they choose. The letter says: It pleases the Iraqi National Assembly to convey through the French citizens returning to their homeland its greetings to the friendly French people and its wishes of peace and well-being for them.

The decision of the elected National Assembly accepting the proposal by the president of the Republic, Saddam Husayn, to allow the French citizens who were working in Iraq to stay or leave is an accurate reflection of the feelings of the Iraqi people.

The Iraqis, in particular, appreciate the French people's position, their deep-rooted history, and their sacrifices for and defense of the principles of freedom, democracy, and equality. Without these principles, peace would always be fragile.

We as Iraqis find in the French heritage common human values worthy of being defended and adhered to genuinely and courageously. We might have different views

and opinions; this is natural. But the common aim ultimately remains the achievement of freedom, democracy, and equality.

These values must be respected and observed by all, using the same standards. We may not be departing from the truth if we say that these Iraqi feelings toward the French people have created the necessary foundations for our joint understanding, confidence, and cooperation, which has existed for a long time in economic, cultural, and other fields. This cooperation has proved to be in the interests of the two peoples and in their belief in balanced and equal international relations.

We, therefore, are keen on and are acting to maintain and develop this cooperation and look for the best ways to settle any differences in views that may emerge between us. In the final analysis, this common understanding and cooperation also serves Europe and the Middle East.

Compared to many nations, the Iraqi people are a small people, but they inherited an ancient culture that played a pioneering and profound role in human culture. As we approach the end of the 20th century, we believe in and are seeking to interact with the cultures of other peoples.

Proceeding from this logic, and in appreciation of our cooperation over the past decades, our people and leadership are eager to see French-Iraqi relations develop to become a model for positive, balanced relations among peoples and countries.

Hence, the Iraqis take pride in the courage expressed by a large number of Frenchmen in rejecting the use of force by the United States to impose its views on a solution to Middle East problems, including the Palestine question, the Lebanese case, and the Gulf problem.

Important intellectual and political forces in France and elsewhere have expressed their conviction that these problems interact with and affect each other, that they are connected, and that the region can never enjoy peace and stability unless all these problems are resolved according to the criteria and equal measures dictated by international law and the UN Charter without any discrimination between any two countries.

The problems, complications, and repercussions of Middle East problems over 40 years have proven that resolving the Palestine question is the key to resolving the rest of the Middle East issues.

The aforementioned ideas and principles are what we are struggling for in Iraq. We hope that the French people will cherish with us the broadest part of these views, in harmony with their civilized values and national interests.

Assembly Speaker Interviewed on 'Guests,' Motives

PM2910143990 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Oct 90 pp 25-27

[Interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Na'na'] The first question concerns the foreign nationals and the national assembly's idea of hosting them. They had come at Iraq's request and with its approval and their stay was linked to work contracts. In principle, they should be free to leave in cases of emergency. So why the decision to keep them?

[Salih] First let me explain that the hosting decision was one of the most difficult decisions made, perhaps even more difficult than the war decision, for reasons related to our principles and our mentality and the values we uphold. To begin with, we believe in human freedom and full rights and we reject any measure that undermines that freedom or those rights, but we were placed in a very difficult position, without many options, with the arrival of the U.S. forces and then the French and British forces and with everyone declaring that they would hit Iraq because of a decision which we consider to be a legitimate one, namely the decision to restore the part to the whole; in other words, to restore Kuwait, which Britain had severed to serve its own aims and designs, to Iraq. An economic blockade has now been imposed against us and we are threatened with a large-scale all-out war that would be a threat not only to the Iraqi leadership but also to all Iraq. The lives of 18 million Iraqis are threatened through war, economic blockade, and starvation.

That being the case, any measure we take becomes a legitimate one. [passage omitted]

If our mistake was that we restored the part to the whole, are threats and the starvation of an entire nation the way to correct that mistake? Are we not entitled to ask why Bush, Mitterrand, or Thatcher do not enter into a dialogue with us so we could put forward our arguments and they could put forward theirs; and if they convince us, then we would be committed to take the steps that would satisfy the international community, but if we convince them then the international community and those who had led it on this current path would have to change their position.

We do not call these nationals hostages because we seek no money or a particular political stance in return for their release. We have not even made the legitimate request that the blockade of 18 million people be lifted. We have only requested one thing, which is that the U.S. President pledge to the international community that he will not use military force against Iraq. That is what we ask and it is a legitimate request which, if fulfilled, would be a gain not only for the Iraqis but for the whole world. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Some time ago you announced that Iraq would not give these people food after October. If they are

regarded as guests until such times as they leave, how do you reconcile the principle of hospitality with your latest decision?

[Salih] We will not let them starve to death, but if Iraqis begin to die of hunger as a result of the blockade imposed against us under U.S. pressure, and if we are denied food and medicine, and even milk for children, what are we to do? We give our guests what we have. If the international community denies us these things then they will suffer along with us, but if the blockade and the threat are lifted, the guests will be able to leave. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] President Mitterrand has put forward an initiative and has pledged that France would not use force in the Gulf region. If France were to withdraw its forces tomorrow, would the French guests be released?

[Salih] So far we have not received an official initiative in writing. All we know about that is gleaned from the media. When the matter becomes official we will give it our attention, study it, and make the necessary decisions. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Assuming Bush promised not to use force, would you trust his promises?

[Salih] If he promised before the international community then we would trust his promises.

[Na'na'] Even if he did not withdraw his forces from the Arabian Peninsula?

[Salih] Yes, if he made a pledge before the international community, we would release the guests. If he then changed his mind and broke his promise then he would be accountable to the international community.

[Na'na'] Was the national assembly consulted on entry into Kuwait?

[Salih] No, for security reasons; but the Kuwait-Iraq unity decision was submitted to the assembly, which was summoned to an extraordinary meeting attended by the president. The decision was submitted to the assembly and unanimously approved. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] You have a number of experts who have remained in their positions and work locations after the recent developments. Could their present position be affected by the position on sanctions taken by their governments? Would they, for example, become guests?

[Salih] No, they will continue to work until their contracts expire. We have enough guests. By the time the contracts of the Soviet experts expire, many changes might have occurred which would not necessitate such a step by us.

[Na'na'] Was there no alternative to the decision to enter Kuwait?

[Salih] Although we regard Kuwait as part of Iraqi territory and of our national sovereignty, there was no prior decision to enter Kuwait. We were the ones who drew up the pan-Arab charter and advocated a policy of Arab solidarity and joint defense, and we were the ones who said that Arab arms should not be used against Arabs. If you go back to the pan-Arab charter you will see that it contained a number of interlinked articles which cannot be separated. One such article was that no Arab should seek the help of foreigners against his brother Arabs. If you go back a little to the events which preceded our entry into Kuwait you will see that, in addition to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], the former Kuwaiti Government insisted on implementing a plot against Iraq. The plot against us culminated in the telephone conversation which took place between King Fahd and the amir of Qatar. In that conversation there was a reference to a specific time for the implementation of a major design against Iraq. If you listened to that conversation you would see that they set a period of two months during which the fates of Saddam Husayn, Iraq, and the Palestinian question would be settled, as happened to President 'Abd-al-Nasir.

We had all that information and we learned that several measures were being implemented against us in stages, beginning with economic pressure to be followed by a U.S. landing in Kuwait to take control of it, after which they would control oil prices any way they liked and prevent Iraq benefiting from its resources.

Iraq has come out of an eight-year war in dire need of its national wealth for rebuilding and development and to meet the requirements of defense and industrialization. The oil policies of Kuwait and the UAE harmed our programs and delayed the fulfillment of our commitments. We had to act because, if we did not, the enemy would advance and deal its blow.

The chance came with the Kuwaiti officers' movement. There was an appeal and we responded immediately. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] You responded to King Fahd's call for a five-power summit conference to tackle the issue within an Arab context. Why, in your view, did that summit fail?

[Salih] We agreed to the conference and expressed our readiness to withdraw immediately if the issue was tackled within an Arab framework, and we did in fact withdraw some of our forces, but when foreign fleets and forces rushed to the region, the Kuwaiti officers asked us to stay, and then they asked for unity. We were placed in a position where we had to face the conspirators. I am confident that we will win the battle and that that will mark the beginning of a new era. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Comments on Gulf Crisis, Kuwait Issue

JN2710083090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 29 Oct 90 pp 20-24

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, by Hamidah Na'na' in Baghdad "early in October 1990"]

[Text] [Na'na'] You have accustomed us to being frank and explicit in your statements and positions. The Arab nation is now in the most dangerous stage in its history. The Gulf crisis is the best example of these dangers. In spite of the support for Iraq by the man in the street in the Arab East and Arab Maghreb, there are some questions we hope can be answered in this interview.

[Ramadan] I do not say that we had no other course than the one we took. But I would like to tell you that we thought of such a course only one month before it took place. We had not discussed it, or proposed it as a solution. We had put our faith in dialogue and had pinned our hopes on it. However, we reached a dead-end, and the dialogue failed. In spite of this, we tried to give the matter more time. But we discovered that the former Kuwaiti rulers were deeply involved in a big conspiracy, particularly in connection with the economic aspects of this conspiracy. When we discovered this, after the failure of the dialogue, we made our decision without hesitation.

[Na'na'] Iraqi forces entered Kuwait following the OPEC conference at which Kuwait announced its willingness to abide by the quotas allotted to it, and by the prices that were agreed. It is true that, although the Kuwaiti oil minister had stated that Kuwaiti would abide by this until the end of the year, there still remained five months between July and the end of the year during which dialogue over the other issues could have been developed. Was the move into Kuwait motivated by other problems concerning the oilfields in the south, and the issue of borders, or did the Jeddah meeting reveal other dimensions of the disagreement that could not be solved, such as the threat of a U.S. landing in Kuwait on 7 August, as the U.S. and Western media reported after the incident?

[Ramadan] First, we do not view the question of the oil price tampering by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]—although it has a serious impact on our economic security—as being the only form of conspiracy. It is true that, in the end they retracted their stand and announced their abidance by the OPEC resolutions, but we knew that this abidance did not stem from a real conviction. They had no intention of implementing it. The Kuwaiti oil minister's statement was clear. Therefore, the purpose of announcing their abidance was to mitigate Iraqi anger for some time while in secret the conspiracy against us continued.

I will explain this by telling you the following two stories. At the Jeddah meeting a few days before the convening of the OPEC Geneva conference, a quadrupartite agreement was reached among Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, according to which each of these countries agreed to abide by the oil production quota allocated to it. However, the problem does not lie here. The problem is that two Gulf states—namely, Kuwait and the UAE—announced in the wake of the Jeddah conference that their abidance by their quotas would be temporary. As for the Kuwaiti [oil] minister, he announced that his country would comply with its quota for two months. After these two months, his country would ask for an increase of its quota and also for an increase in oil prices, the minister added. Regarding what happened, you are the one to whom the statement was made in Geneva. If we were to link this to the telephone conversation on 9 July 1990 between King Fahd and the Qatari amir in which the king urged, or seemed to urge the [oil] ministers [of the above-named Arabian Gulf states] to respond favorably and deal quietly with the Iraqi minister at the OPEC conference to overcome this phase. In that conversation, King Fahd added that the ministers can decide whatever they want when they meet in the absence of their Iraqi counterpart. All this confirms that these countries' abidance by OPEC prices and production quotas was designed to assuage anger, not to abandon the conspiracy. As for the conspiracy, it was nurtured and going full swing against Iraq. However, Arab parties asked us to give a chance for another round of Arab talks. That is why we decided to meet [with the Kuwaitis] in Jeddah. However, the meeting failed due to the absence of any signs of change in the Kuwaiti rulers' position.

[Na'na'] What specifically happened at the Jeddah conference?

[Ramadan] The dialogue in Jeddah did not produced the expected results. Therefore, Iraq circulated a memorandum [at the Arab League] saying it would accept nothing that would harm its interests. When we found out that the Kuwaiti rulers reject anything to settle the outstanding issues Iraq brought up, that they reject everything and every Iraqi right regarding borders, losses, and the oil policy, we became certain that they had decided to persist in the conspiracy. The statements made here and there announcing commitment on some issues were a reflection of a tactical position. We then realized that this phase was not going to last, even though it might continue for two or several months. Our policy is well-known. When we have a dispute or differences of opinion with an Arab side, we show patience while attempting to resolve the dispute or differences of opinion. But when we become certain that there is a conspiracy, our patience begins to have limits. We do not entertain compromise solutions in this regard. The conspiracy must be halted. The U.S. and British plans drawn up with the Gulf rulers to allow the United States and Britain to establish bases and maintain a presence in the Gulf were conspicuous. The pretext advanced was that Iraq posed a threat to the Arabian Gulf states. They convinced the Gulf rulers of this. Otherwise, how would you explain the presence of the tankers that came to the Gulf to protect Kuwaiti oil during the last years of the war? And when the war was halted, why did the Kuwaitis insist that these tankers should remain in the Gulf, despite the fact that the tankers and the U.S. Navy ships [escorting them] cost Kuwait heavily? Why did Kuwait continue to defend this presence?

[Na'na'] Arab public opinion was surprised by the step you took the day you entered Kuwait, despite the fact that your differences with Kuwait and the UAE dated back more than six months prior to the move. Why did

you not advise public opinion of these differences? Why did you not talk about this dispute? Do you not think that public opinion could influence the solution of this crisis? If not, do you not think that public opinion at least should have been told about what was going on, or prepared to receive what is going to happen?

[Ramadan] A point should be noted here; namely, that Iraq's leadership has great patience. We are the only Iraqi leadership in 22 years to attempt to deal with the severed part of Iraq (Kuwait) rationally, despite the fact that this case offended our thinking and principles. We exerted immense efforts to bring about understanding. The obstacle was always the Kuwaiti rulers; they rejected any formula of good-neighborliness based on understanding and exchange of interests, which essentially guarantee them what they want and give Iraq an outlet to the sea. The former rulers rejected this, however. We tried not to bring up this issue publicly so as not to show that there were differences, in the hope that we might reach positive results through dialogue.

From the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, people knew there were problems. They also knew that Kuwaiti rulers used to extract oil from the al-Rumaylah field despite an agreement reached in 1980 that oil should not be drilled in this area, and that farms should not be established in disputed areas except in a joint form. If, however, there was no possibility to set up a joint venture, then the status quo should be maintained. But this agreement was not honored during the war. We have many documents to prove that we asked them more than once to stop oil prospecting in the disputed areas. It was not in our interest to spark off a battle with Kuwait while we were already engaged in a war. They, however, were not ashamed to exploit the war situation and reveal their ill intentions. We tried not to let the dispute surface so as not to engender lasting strong feelings; because if that happened, the possibility of understanding would become much more difficult. Recently, the price of one barrel of oil reached $11. Thus, we became almost convinced that there was no hope in dialogue. Consequently, Arab citizens and officials should know what was happening between us. Therefore, there was the 14 July memorandum to the Arab League, and after that to all Arab presidents. Some leaders were not surprised, because they knew about the dispute, or because we told them most of the details of the dispute. Some told us that they supported our viewpoint.

Subsequent events proved to us that the rulers of Kuwait were involved in the conspiracy. Thus, the results of any delay on our part to take measures would not have been guaranteed. For example, if forces arrived in the region before 2 August and the conspiracy was implemented, what would the result have been then? What happened on 2 August could have happened on 2 September. Arab public opinion would have known the details, only too late. Were there better circumstances and capabilities on 2 September to foil the conspiracy? We cannot be sure.

[Na'na'] The end result is that the Arabs are now divided over your presence in Kuwait.

[Ramadan] Only the official Arab stand.

[Na'na'] On the international level, it is as you see it. Most countries of the world are against your presence there, as no other council resolutions have been passed as speedily as the present ones, not to mention the siege imposed on Iraq. However, initiatives are being proposed in the West, specifically the French initiative, whose provisions you know very well. Suppose the conditions for the success of this initiative are right, will Iraq agree to withdraw from Kuwait in accordance with the initiative's proposals for a referendum and the right to self-determination?

[Ramadan] Any initiative that contains preconditions is no longer an initiative. Any formula for a political solution that sets one or two conditions for a dialogue can no longer be viewed as an initiative. We are interested in and appreciate the French initiative and President Mitterrand's speech at the United Nations. This is so because it is the first speech within the framework of a political solution that comes from a major European country, and because we are convinced that it has been made with good and sound intentions for settling the issue in a peaceful manner, especially since the initiative mentioned the linkage among the issues in the region although without specifying this linkage. We hope that France will not forget, and will keep in mind the Iraqi initiative of 12 August.

The French initiative has raised hopes and has introduced a common language. We hope that through the initiative we submitted and through the French initiative we may reach a solution. From a principled point of view, when we say that Kuwait is part of Iraq, this is not just rhetoric but documented and known. We are also serious when we say that we are ready to settle this problem on the Arab level with one formula and on the international level with another formula. We said that, on the international level, we should work to solve all the issues of the region in chronological order and on specific terms. We are fully committed to this. Sanctions will be imposed on any of the concerned parties that do not abide by this. But to discuss the issue of Kuwait and the Gulf, and to issue resolutions on it, while only giving a promise to show an interest in the Middle East cause is—with all due respect to any country that adopts such a position—is not reassuring, and cannot be accepted.

[Na'na'] With the sudden Iraqi move into Kuwait, Iraq's previous Arab policy began to be questioned. Iraq produced the Pan-Arab Charter. Similarly, Iraq has always championed Arab solidarity. Moreover, Iraq hosted the latest Arab summit, which was supposed to have laid foundations for inter-Arab cooperation and Arab security. In addition, Iraq is a member of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. Before making such a move, was Iraq not supposed to have consulted with the other ACC partners?

Iraq's entry into Kuwait surprised everybody and made this whole policy highly questionable. To say the least, given the present developments, it became difficult for others to understand the past policies.

[Ramadan] As regards the Iraqi move, I believe it has enhanced all of the principles you have just mentioned. What we have done does not contravene these principles. We have to tackle matters smoothly and quietly. All of these principles bolstered the pan-Arab and unionist ideals that we cherish and uphold. The objective behind these principles is to remind everybody that Israel still exists in the heartland of this nation, and also to remind everybody that there is injustice. The rich are getting richer, whereas the poor in the Arab homeland are getting poorer. Arab solidarity should not be construed to mean an umbrella for protecting agents and spies. As for the Charter, it should not be viewed as an instrument of protection for regimes that seek the help of foreign powers.

Iraq continues to uphold and have faith in all the principles that it has long held. Its objective is to enhance and bolster the nation's potentialities so as to achieve unity and to strengthen it. Is the unification of the severed parts of the homeland an act against the nation's unity? Does the call for investing Arab funds inside the Arab homeland go against Arab solidarity? If this solidarity were to protect those who make Arab funds serve foreigners, we are against this type of solidarity. We vindicate Arab rights. To achieve this objective, we have upheld solidarity.

As for the ACC, it is a newly established council. It was established only one year ago. As a matter of fact, there was no security cooperation among the ACC member states. Egypt opposed any discussion of the issue. As regards the agreement not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states and not to use force, we proposed such a draft agreement within the ACC. However, Egypt rejected this draft agreement. Hence, agreements in this regard were signed with only Jordan and Yemen. A draft agreement in this area was discussed by the ACC Ministerial Council when I was the chairman of the Council. Three ACC members voted in favor of the draft agreement, while Egypt demanded amendments to the draft agreement. We accepted Egypt's amendments. Later, the Council met and the draft agreement was put to the vote. The Egyptians refused to vote on it and asked that it be withdrawn from the agenda.

In my capacity as a chairman of the Ministerial Council at the time, I refused to drop the draft agreement from the agenda. I told them that the issue had to be decided at the summit, and that we have no right to cancel or erase it because the summit is the party responsible for endorsing it. The meeting adjourned then. When we typed the agenda and added this point and sent it to our governments, I received a lengthy memorandum from Egypt expressing surprise that this point was included in the agenda when they had asked not to include it. I said to them: You asked for this, but three countries have not asked for it, and our charter states that decisions are made by a majority vote, unless the system is amended or other countries joined the ACC. We were three against one. Moreover, we had recommended that this paragraph be discussed at the summit to be held in Alexandria. When I left for the summit a day prior to the departure of the president, President Husni Mubarak asked to see me and insisted that this paragraph be dropped from the agenda. It was obvious that he did not want to be embarrassed by discussing it at the summit with President Saddam Husayn. I told him there was no reason for embarrassment and that President Saddam Husayn would discuss the point with you, but it will not be mentioned in the final statement. And this is what happened.

[Na'na'] Why did Egypt reject it? What was their opinion?

[Ramadan] President Mubarak said that the issue would create problems for Egypt with Israel and America. He added that the ACC was an economic council. As for security, there is a collective defense pact signed at the Arab League.

[Na'na'] Does it contravene the Camp David agreement?

[Ramadan] Yes, this was the real reason. However, they did not want to say that. And, indeed, we did not discuss it and withdrew it practically.

[Na'na'] And Egypt did not even coordinate in the security area with Jordan and Yemen?

[Ramadan] No. They insisted on rejecting this issue in a strange manner, despite the fact that it would serve the Arab nation.

[Na'na'] Anyone who reads your press or watches your television cannot help noticing that your attack is concentrated primarily on two Arab regimes, the Egyptian and Saudi regimes, while you avoid attacking the Syrian regime, even though it has gone farther than the Egyptian regime. For, as soon as the Iranian-Iraqi agreement was announced, the president [of Syria] traveled to Tehran to convince the Iranians not to cooperate with Iraq. How could you explain this to us, especially since Syria is your special concern?

[Ramadan] My special concern is the Arab homeland. All of us at the leadership have the Arab homeland as our special concern. This is the only thing we understand. For, if anyone does not understand the issues of his household, then how can he understand the issues of others? We Arabs understand France's affairs more than our own. So, how can those rulers lead their countries. I cannot point out all the reasons. However, I can say that Iraq—as a leadership—imparted some nationalism and patriotism to Mubarak and Fahd. I know that many blame us because we gave them our attention, and helped Egypt join the ACC. Therefore, I find it necessary to remove this illusion that exists in the minds of some people.

Yes, King Fahd is the one who invited the foreigner to Arab lands. As for Mubarak, he is the director of the

political drama acting to cover up for the foreign presence. But it goes without saying that he is a failing director. At the Cairo summit, the Americans were unsuccessful in their efforts to provide a happy ending to their drama. I said this there. As for Abu-Sulayman (meaning President al-Asad), he is now "totally exposed." There is no need for us to tell people any more about his role. He is like the owner of a small grocery. He waits until chicken is in short supply. When that happens, he rushes to buy chicken to make profit. His preoccupation in major issues is now over. When the opportunity presented itself to him, he dispatched 25,000 troops, after calculating their salaries which he will collect. Finally, as you know, he submitted a memorandum to the parties concerned listing the damage that he has incurred as a result of the Gulf developments. I find this strange, as he now benefits from these developments. He is now selling his oil at higher prices. There is no oil pipeline operating across Syrian territory for him to say that it was closed and caused him to suffer. Besides, there is no transit of commodities between our two countries. How then, has he suffered any losses? He benefited from the current situation. Yes, he went to Iran to influence the Iranians. We are used to such conduct from Hafiz al-Asad. Nowadays, we do not feel any need to enlighten simple citizens about Hafiz al-Asad. Why then should we make the effort?

[Na'na'] This means that you view him as a man done for, as a man who does not merit any effort to expose?

[Ramadan] Yes, he is a loser and has only a short time left in power. In this battle, the Arab masses will end the rule of his ilk. Arab issues constitute an indivisible whole. In our initiative of 12 August, we highlighted the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue.

[Na'na'] Are you really prepared militarily for the battle, despite the fact that estimates of world experts confirm that the losses would be immense if war were to erupt? In your last statement, you threatened to set the region ablaze and to strike at both Saudi Arabia and Israel. Is Iraq actually capable of doing this? Can Iraq hold out in a battle of this type with the world, the whole world, poised against it?

[Ramadan] The important thing is that we, our people, and our nation's masses are convinced that we are on the side of right and that Kuwait is part of our territory. As for how others will act, that is up to them. On 2 August 1990, we were aware that Zionism and the United States would oppose any moves to regain our rights, regardless of the nature and type of these rights, especially if these moves were coupled with serious efforts to enhance Arab capabilities to pave the way for vindicating our central Palestinian cause. We are aware of all this. Likewise, we are aware that the battle is now two months late. Moreover, we know that if the battle were to break out and if they were to fix its zero hour, they would will not be able to define its scope nor to put an end to it. We have decided not to fire the first round to make the world know that we are sparing no efforts to initiate dialogue and bring about peace. We will continue to pursue this policy until the last moment. Those who speak of a lightning war of a few hours or a few days, are mistaken. I am saying that Iraq will not be the only battle zone. The battle will also take place in the lands of their agents. From the first moment, the lands of their agents, including Israel, will be a major battle zone.

[Na'na'] Your people fought for eight years and endured courageously. Do you feel that this people will put up with a battle that will match your ambitions as a leadership?

[Ramadan] Our people, whom you know quite well are tired of peace. When man feels that something so dear has become accessible, he becomes ready to make sacrifices and his weariness evaporates into thin air. Our people have made sacrifices over an eight-year period. When they feel that their hopes and the hopes of the Arab nation are about to be realized, they reach the conclusion that a bold posture will make them forget about their weariness.

[Na'na'] Some Arabs accuse you of dragging the Americans into the region. Certainly you expected me to ask you this question, because it is much repeated by the news media. Supposing that war breaks out and drags on, what will guarantee the Americans' departure from the region?

[Ramadan] Are the Americans children, that we can drag them into the region? The Americans intended to control the oil wells. We have heard their statements and announcements. In the light of these statements, in which they expressed their intentions, how can it be said that we dragged them into the region? We said, if they seek to plot against us we will not allow them to do so, because we will be lying in wait for them. We say if the war erupts, the oil fields under the United States' control will no longer be there. The oil wells are not a matchbox that they can put in their pockets and send to their country. The oil wells are Arab territory; they are not concealed from the eyes under a mountain. It will really be, as they say, a third world war. The third [as published] world war broke out on the battlefield only, but this war will not be confined to the battlefield. There will be other fields where real economic fighting will take place and the world will be deprived of 60 percent of its oil needs. This will lead to an economic collapse and to conflicts and interventions even in arenas the Arab hand will not reach militarily.

[Na'na'] You are talking about an Arab solution to the crisis. Suppose that King Fahd lands at Baghdad airport tomorrow to tell you: Let us negotiate a solution to this crisis. Would you accept King Fahd as your interlocutor?

[Ramadan] Yes, we accept. When Saudi Arabia realizes that no danger is posed to it by Iraq, we will be ready for a direct dialogue with it. We hope that the ruling Saudi family will not further implicate itself and we do not want the Saudi family to end at our hands. Iraq had no intention of entering Saudi Arabia, nor did it plan that. If they were sincere in the search for an Arab solution, we

are ready to offer guarantees to them that no danger is posed to them. Consequently, they should ask the foreign forces to leave now. The problem of Kuwait is completely different, for Kuwait is part of Iraq and they know this quite well, and Fahd knows this personally. He also knows about the Kuwaiti rulers' plotting against us. We said this at the Cairo summit and called for the presence of Arab forces with us in the region.

[Na'na'] Where? In Saudi Arabia, or Kuwait?

[Ramadan] In Saudi Arabia; Kuwait is Iraqi territory.

[Na'na'] And you do not agree to the idea of holding a referendum in Kuwait?

[Ramadan] No.

[Na'na'] Do you mean there will be no referendum on sovereignty?

[Ramadan] Certainly. Can we ask the Palestinians if they want a referendum on their being Palestinian? Why did the Europeans not hold a referendum on forming their countries? Did the United States not unite its states through fighting and not referendum or self-determination? Why do they apply this to us and not to themselves? Now this is their excuse to maintain our dismemberment.

[Na'na'] Does this mean that the Kuwaiti people's opinion is unimportant?

[Ramadan] Kuwait, as I have already said, is part of Iraq. Would it be logical to hold a referendum to see if the people of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah wish to remain part of Iraq or not? If five or six persons in an Iraqi governorate are upset, would it be acceptable for us to allow foreigners to tell us they want to ask the opinion of these people on whether they want to stay with you?

[Na'na'] Do you not see that this comparison is incorrect? Kuwait was historically part of Iraq, but this part developed a special situation. It became a state with a flag and an anthem. It became a member of the United Nations and had a Constitution. Moreover, the government of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party recognized the independence of Kuwait, as I said at the beginning of this interview.

[Ramadan] We did not recognize a Constitution or border. We did not agree with them on anything. We dealt with the fait accompli. Anyway, this is a point that is recorded against us.

[Na'na'] And diplomatic relations?

[Ramadan] This is a point against us and our citizens are entitled to blame us for this behavior. However, there was nothing more than that; that is, we did not go so far as to consolidate the border and initiate full recognition.

[Na'na'] During the Gulf events, the West launched a campaign against Iraq on the issue of democracy. Before the events, you had begun to implement a host of measures related to the freedom of the press and constitutional amendments. Does the present situation allow for continuing them?

[Ramadan] What do you think?

[Na'na'] I think it would be difficult to continue.

[Ramadan] I believe we are now living under the canopy of a democracy with which we are satisfied. If what happened here had happened in any other country, the Constitution would have been suspended. We are now applying democracy in an exceptional manner. Thus far, the Revolution Command Council has not decided to suspend the Constitution, or even parts of it.

[Na'na'] The campaign concentrated on the person of the president, considering him the only decisionmaker in Iraq. From my acquaintance with you, I know this is untrue. However, I would like to ask you in your capacity as a politician in the leadership who has accompanied every stage of the revolution from the beginning, how do you make your decisions within the political leadership?

[Ramadan] We should not forget the intentions of our enemies. We tell the Western news media that we cannot forget the role of Zionism and Americans in the media. Their intentions are known. We cannot say the Western media are democratic or unconnected with interventions, influences, and Zionism. Therefore, they know well the president's role over the past 22 years in building the psychology of the Iraqi individual. Instead of taking on 18 million Iraqis—and they will certainly never do so—they concentrate on one person. It is the person who has great credit in the new edifice. We Arabs differ from the West in the way we view the role of the individual in history. If we look at Arab history since the emergence of Islam, we will find that, in every stage of history there was a symbol that was trusted by the masses of that time. His existence prompted a military, cultural, agricultural, and political awakening. Loss of the symbol at any stage led to deterioration, dismemberment, and division. An Arab is tribal, the son of a family, and a peasant who takes pride in his land and makes sure that nobody else shares it with him. He needs a leader around whom to rally. But if he believes in principles only, without the symbol in which these principles are represented, we find that his readiness to sacrifice for these principles is very limited. Therefore, change in the Iraqis' potential and ability to sacrifice is not new.

For example, if the battle with Iran had occurred before Saddam Husayn's time, Iraq would have been defeated. On the other hand, the decisions taken then resulted in all this enthusiasm and readiness to sacrifice, because they were in the interest of the people and express their conscience. Very often, decisions are issued by the largest democratic institutions but without sparking off this enthusiasm among the masses. What are their value? Had there been an ordinary liberal institution, would it have been able to take a decision like the 2 August 1990

decision? That would be impossible. However, there is no doubt that 18 million Iraqis support this decision unanimously.

We are ready to receive any party wishing to come to Iraq to see if there is a popular unanimity or not. As long as there is unanimity and a majority, the decision is correct and the accusation that the decisions are made only by Saddam Husayn is incorrect. But they realize quite well that these decisions stem from the Iraqis. Iraq is a revolutionary institution that has a long history of making basic historical decisions. This is proved by Iraq's entering all battles with a unified leadership, contrary to many countries that have entered similar battles with divisions and differences in the positions of not only the leaders but also the people. Iraq's success in its battles indicates that the decisions are studied and absorbed and are carried out only when all are convinced of them.

[Na'na'] Iraq's signing of a peace treaty with Iran surprised observers. The masses had no knowledge of the progress of negotiations. The return to the 1975 agreement has certainly brought to mind the question: What was the purpose of the war then? Moreover, the speed with which the agreement was signed following your entry into Kuwait gave the impression that there was an agreement between you and the Iranians on this entry, or that the Iranians were aware of it. Has Iraq entered Kuwait to resolve its problem with Iran after obtaining a sea outlet, which makes the problem of Shatt al-'Arab a marginal issue? What point have your relations with Iran reached?

[Ramadan] The eight-year war was not over the 1975 agreement, which the Iranians implicitly canceled and denounced. Our signing of this agreement came in circumstances under which we had to make calculations as to whether we would lose either Iraq or half of Shatt al-'Arab. We chose what was in the best interest of Iraq when we restored the usurped part, that is Kuwait. Iraq then faced a serious plot aimed at subjugating and seizing all of Iraq from Zakho to the sea. The option was again presented to us to sign an agreement that protects our territory and safeguards our back. Once again we chose what was in the best interest of Iraq. We told Sa'ud al-Faysal a few days before the offensive that, if they pursued their plotting under circumstances where no peaceful solution with Iran had yet been reached, and where our forces were deployed on the border, we might give up half of Shatt al-'Arab, and thus, many heads would fall. We also explained to him the 1975 agreement when Barzani and the Shah tried to threaten Iraq.

I wonder why they say today that they were surprised? On 30 May 1990 during the summit, we told them that those who starve our people in effect declare war on us. The memo we addressed to them was clear, and when Sa'ud al-Faysal came we explained this to him. Today, the equation has changed and forces have come to the region. Therefore, we had to take a step toward Iran, because this meant that 45 Iraqi military divisions could suddenly turn around and face the U.S. forces.

As for the articles of the dialogue and the agreement, those were published in the newspapers.

[Na'na'] Has your relationship with Iran stabilized? Should we expect an alliance between you against the Western presence?

[Ramadan] We think that the Iraqi leadership has played its historical and humane role with regard to the interests of the people. Peace initiatives began in April with the first letter by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and later came the recent great initiative on 14 August 1990. We consider this issue as closed. What remains is, what does Iran want? Does it wish to develop relations by resolving simple issues, or by resolving difficult issues?! The road is open today.

If Iran was sincere in terms of its principled position on Zionism, imperialism, and the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and it's saying that they are incapable of protecting the holy sites, then what Iraq is doing is just that; namely facing these regimes and facing imperialism and Zionism. Hence, this is the chance for Iran to put its words into practice while Arab and Muslim masses are raising their voice to face this aggression.

I think that the Iranian leadership is sincerely and seriously considering this.

[Na'na'] We were surprised when President Saddam Husayn addressed the Muslim nation calling for the protection of the holy sites. It is known that the lands of Mecca and a-Madinah, since the honorable prophet's mission and up until now, were under the protection of the Arab Muslims, even during the Ottoman occupation when Sultan Salim made a point of keeping the keys with the honorable Arabs of Mecca.

[Ramadan] Islam does not distinguish between Arabs and non-Arabs. Nor does it distinguish between any language or race. However, all Muslims know that the Arabs had a pioneering and a leading role in all tasks and duties related to the holy sites, because they are the ones who conveyed the religious message and because the Koranic revelations were in their language. The religious message began in their land and each Muslim, regardless of his race, knows this and is proud of it. Then, it is natural to call on the Muslims to protect the land of the holy sites. The priority is for the Arabs, because the holy sites are on Arab Muslim land.

However, it is the duty of the Pakistani, Bangladesh, and Malaysian citizen to fight in defense of the land of sanctities if the Arab forces are not enough to defend them. Protection does not have to be a direct protection in the field. When we are able to harm the enemy's interests in any part of the world, we will be making a contribution in the battle to defend the holy sites. And, when the first bullet is fired to face imperialism, Zionism, and their allies, and when the masses rise to

face the United States all over the globe to put an end to its tyranny, it also means a defense of the Muslims' sacred places and dignity.

[Na'na'] Do you believe in the role of the masses?

[Ramadan] Definitely, yes. If we go back a little to the fifties and see the battle of 1956, when the Arab masses rose against the tripartite aggression, we will understand what the action of the masses means. The nationalist Arab trend was then standing up to the aggressor. Now, the nationalist Arab and the Islamic trends have become intertwined and this gives us an idea of the positive aspects of the step taken by Iraq and the appeal that its president has made to the Arab nation.

[Na'na'] Today, the nationalist Arab political language and the religious language overlap in whatever is uttered by President Saddam Husayn, and Baghdad receives Islamic forces daily. Does this mean the end of the contradiction between nationalist Arab and religious plans?

[Ramadan] The Arab masses, with all their trends, have come out against the U.S.-imperialist enemy. This has helped strengthen our belief in the inevitability of victory and made us more convinced that the step we took was not wrong. The conflict among the forces and their preoccupation with things other than the main battle is not in the interest of the nation. Now, it has become apparent to us that this conflict, which has lasted many years, can only be resolved by a major battle. Today, they want to prolong the battle, but this will not be in their interest, because this will strengthen cohesion among the political forces of the Arab masses; that is, cohesion between the so-called right and left. Therefore, we will move from a united Iraqi people, who managed to confront the enemy, to an Arab people of the same class who can stand united for the sake of their right and values. The Arab people want a central command and a central battle, and they want a cause. They have a central, but dead, cause and all that which has been proposed to resolve this cause has not touched their consciousness. The Islamist remained an Islamist, the pan-Arabist remained a pan-Arabist, the leftist remained a leftist, and the rightist remained a rightist. However, the recent confrontation has proved that all the contradictions among these forces are secondary ones. To prove this, when what happened in the Gulf happened, the people inside the occupied territories—the intifadah heroes—rose in support of and solidarity with the Iraqi step even before the Arab masses outside the occupied territories did. For us, this was clear evidence that the right choice was made and that our battle is a historic one that will yield positive results for the nation. And, that is why we were not worried by all this foreign presence.

[Na'na'] Are you not worried that the Arab street will be brought under control and that its fervor will decrease?

[Ramadan] No. That depends on us. If we believe that the Arab street is serious in our battles, it will stand by our side and support us; its zeal will not be temporary. If we believe otherwise, it will abandon us. The present stand of the Arab masses made it irrefutably clear to us that holding the Arab citizen and masses responsible for all past defeats was a grave error. The Arab citizen has not played his role yet. I am certain that if it is made clear to the Arab citizen that we intend to fight the battle until the very end, and that we will not retreat from our goals, which are entrenched in his conscience and mind, then the popular stand will develop.

[Na'na'] Mr. Taha, it seems we live in a time of contradictions. At a time when the Soviet Union took a stand against Iraq during its latest steps, your historical friend came closer to Saudi Arabia and established diplomatic ties. The same applies to the PRC. What is your view about the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union?

[Ramadan] Because of many considerations, I do not wish to delve into this topic. I will only say that I hope the Soviet Union does not retreat any further than it has already and leave the arena to the United States. I also hope that the Soviet administration will not buy the common wisdom that U.S. forces are invincible, because that would turn the Soviet Union into a dependent; this is precisely what we do not wish to see happen. What we would like is for every country in the world to be free, never mind the Soviet Union. We have said and continue to say that the Third World countries still have a chance before them, especially since the region we are in is a very sensitive and influential region. I know that the Soviet Union has difficult internal problems, but these problems should not occupy it away from its role in serving world peace.

[Na'na'] And relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Ramadan] Saudi relations with the Soviet Union and the PRC today are not merely a personal desire of the Saudi regime. It is something imposed by circumstances. Saudi Arabia is now bribing the Soviet Union and the latter has its eye on Saudi investments and hard currency, which could help it carry out projects and solve problems.

I believe that every person who sees these relations from a distance understands that the cause is linked to immediate interests and that it cannot create results with a tangible effect. We are not against Saudi Arabia's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviets. We had previously advised it to do so. However, its answer to us was always that it did not want to establish relations with a communist country.

Harvard Study Cited on Replacing Saudi King

JN2910163990 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 29, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily expected that within a short time, the American Administration would replace its ally Fahd and his

political regime by another to insure its presence continuity and the effectiveness of its directives in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and in the whole region afterwards.

The paper today quoted a study made by Harvard University and financed by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Mosad published in the form of a booklet entitled "The Saudi Regime Is Exploding." The paper said that the White House expressed its fears about the future of its ally and the American interests in the region.

The study stated that among these fears was the unity of the parts of Yemen and the start of Iraq and Iran again to export their full quotas of oil when it was previously controlled by the OPEC prices which were in fact determined by the Saudi regime.

The paper said that the study's data and the recent events in Najd and Hejaz after Fahd's invitation to foreign forces and the American intervention in the region made it clear that the contradictions to be followed would pave the way for the medium class to play its role in the alternation process.

The paper concluded that the White House's first indication in replacement of Fahd's regime was the shameful scandals which were published by the American media about Saudi rulers.

Saddam Husayn Meets With Yasir 'Arafat

JN2910193390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Today President Saddam Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. The latest developments in the Arab region and the Palestine question were discussed during the meeting. The president praised our people's intifadah in the occupied territory and their brave confrontation with the Zionist aggression. He highly valued their militant steadfastness and boldness against Zionist terrorism and its repressive organs and crimes against the innocent people of Palestine.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee members; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad, attended the meeting.

Embargo Reportedly Paralyzes Private Sector

NC2910161490 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Iraqi private sector has ground to a standstill because of the international trade embargo imposed after the invasion of Kuwait, an Iraqi Shiite opposition leader said here Monday.

The embargo has "started to have very negative economic repercussions within the country" and has provoked demonstrations, Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "The first results of the embargo have been stagnation, close to paralysis for the country's market places, with the largest markets in Baghdad half-closed," the Muslim cleric said. "In the private sector, firms and factories are totally closed."

The head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq said many inhabitants of Baghdad had taken refuge in the countryside where foodstuffs were still available.

He said the shortages had triggered protests in the southern port city of al-Basrah as well as the northern city of Mosul, where demonstrators shouted slogans against President Saddam Husayn and against the United States. "But since the Baghdad regime is brutally repressive, popular discontent cannot be aired at the political level," the opposition leader said.

Shamir Urges Bush To Accept Zamir Report

TA2910100790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Oct 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Yesterday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sent another letter to U.S. President George Bush, stressing the efforts that Israel invested in investigating the incidents on the Temple Mount by setting up an independent commission of inquiry.

The prime minister called on President Bush to help get the commission's recommendations accepted by the international community and thus put an end to the attacks against Israel in the United Nations so that world efforts can again focus on resolving the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

In the framework of efforts to distribute the Zamir commission's report, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu yesterday held a meeting on the subject in the Foreign Ministry's situation room. Israeli legations throughout the world have been sent a condensed copy of the report in English, including instructions regarding the public relations angle. According to the prescribed Israeli position, the Israeli Government spokesmen overseas will assert that, under the present conditions, any additional political action within the framework of the United Nations will only play into the hands of Saddam Husayn.

Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu has instructed the Israeli ambassadors to explain that the Security Council no longer has anything to investigate, because the true facts have now been released by the Zamir commission and any further debate in the United Nations would be political in nature and would help the Iraqi ruler divert international attention from the conquest of Kuwait.

Suggests Cabinet Accept Report

TA2810144090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In the cabinet session this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir suggested that the cabinet adopt the Zamir report, and the cabinet unanimously agreed.

In the discussion, Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo announced that he has not yet reached decisions on personal issues as called for by the report, and that he will make his decisions only after additional consultations.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert demanded that personal conclusions be drawn, saying errors of judgment were made and that the disaster could have been prevented had the deployment been right.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens expressed his doubts whether the time is right to draw personal conclusions. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said that if personal conclusions are not drawn, it would do injustice to the commission.

On the other hand, at least four ministers, including Sharon, Moda'i, Eytan, and Sciaki, spoke against drawing personal conclusions. They believe that if policemen are punished, it would be like pleading guilty.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds that in today's session, the cabinet also discussed the closure imposed on the territories. Several ministers sharply criticized the fact that the passages were opened as early as this morning. The prime minister expressed his support for lifting the closure, and he said that flexible means must be used in dealing with the riots.

Shamir Warns Saddam Against Harming Israel

TA2910191190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is now addressing a dinner for United Jewish Appeal [UJA] delegates from abroad who are currently visiting Israel. Let us go over to our correspondent Nava Kohen at the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem: [passage omitted]

Referring to the Temple Mount events and the inquiry commission report, Shamir said Jerusalem will not be redivided. He said the UN Security Council issued a one-sided resolution which interfered in the status of Israel's capital, Jerusalem. We are not looking for a fight with the Security Council or a confrontation with our greatest friend, the United States, but we will not put up with Jews being harmed. We will respond if there is an all-out war or a terrorist attack. We will react to stones, knives, or live ammunition, we will not leave the citizens of Israel susceptible to danger, and we will build a wall of steel and love around our people, Shamir said. Saddam Husayn must know that if he lays a finger on Israel he will pay the price.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 29 October adds the following remarks in English made by Prime Minister Shamir at the same function: "Saddam Husayn must surely know that if he lays a finger on Israel he will pay a terrible price for such a blunder. [applause] This attempt to drag us into the present conflict so as to fool the world into believing that he is defending the Arabs against the Zionist enemy will not succeed. He is fooling only himself and his blind supporters. With a strong will and strong nerves we shall resist him. We are not part of the U.S.-Arab coalition, nor are we part of any temporary coalition against Iraq, but by our very presence in this region, thanks to our strong will and capacity, we have been and continue to be a force for stability, a barrier that has prevented many military adventures and much more violence. My dear friends, let me say that despite all the difficulties, all the [word indistinct], we continue to believe in the possibility of peace in this region and coexistence between us and the Arab population. The process could be easier

after the defeat of Saddam Husayn and the other extremist elements in the Arab world. Our Arab neighbors must be convinced that only one option is open to them: the option of negotiations and peace. In order for this message to sink in, Israel must be forever strong and prepared, but always ready to meet moderation with moderation."]

A large part of the speech was devoted to aliyah and the challenge it provides Israel. The UJA delegates received the prime minister with thunderous applause.

Arens Comments on Zamir Report, Territories

TA2710202490 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1915 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Does the fact that you are lifting the closure tomorrow indicate that you can assure the Israeli citizens that next week there will be no stabbings or attacks against Israelis by residents of the territories?

[Arens] No one can make such a promise. We know that among the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip there are inciters and people being incited. It did not start last week. We have been dealing with this problem for many years. Being realistic, I will say that we will unfortunately have to deal with it in the future as well.

[Shlonsky] Does this mean that imposing the closure is a method? In other words, if next week Israelis are again stabbed, God forbid, will you reimpose the closure on the territories?

[Arens] In our confrontation with the problem of the violence entering the streets of our cities, we will have to use various means. This is one means of cooling tempers. I hope this will lead the Palestinians to reflect on the fact that such murders will only worsen the Palestinian tragedy. We hope it would provide influential people in the population with the opportunity to exercise their influence on it. I hope it works.

[Shlonsky] The Palestinian population, however, does not understand it this way. Today there is widespread support for these acts, and our reply is again to send forces and special units, and again impose closure. Does the government, of which you are a member, have a political answer for these things, or is the answer only the reinforcement of units?

[Arens] I believe there is no link between the political process—which is important to us, which we support, and to which the Israeli Government is committed—and the murders and acts of violence we have witnessed in the past few weeks. The Muslim extremists who threw stones at the Western Wall plaza are interested in no political process. The man who murdered the three Jews in the Baq'a neighborhood of Jerusalem is interested in no political process. We are dealing here with brutality and fanaticism, which is, unfortunately, typical of a too large a part of the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Shlonsky] Sir, there is no denying that no progress has been made in the political process, that there is an absolute freeze. Several weeks ago you spoke on television about trial elections in the territories and a dialogue, but nothing is happening. Certainly this has an effect on the behavior of the Palestinians in the territories.

[Arens] I believe everyone in Israel knows what is perhaps not as clearly understood to people around the world, and should be: If the political process in the Israeli-Arab conflict in the Middle East is slow, that is not our fault. We did not invent Saddam Husayn; we did not invent the support for him; we are not responsible for the violence that is the real obstacle to the peace process.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Defense Minister, yesterday the commission of investigation of the Temple Mount events presented its report. Do you agree with the concept, the version of the commission members, that there was nothing wrong with the way live ammunition was used by the Border Police unit on the Temple Mount in an incident where 21 people were killed and over 150 injured? Do you find this reasonable?

[Arens] I believe that the report corroborates what each of us knew in his heart when we heard about the incident: that the responsibility for the tragic and massive loss of human lives lies solely with the inciters and those who heeded their calls on the Temple Mount, the Muslim extremists who started this incident. Naturally, we want to learn the lessons that can be learned from every case. It is clear, in view of the report, that had we had larger police forces there, there may have been fewer casualties. It is possible, and I so believe, that police operations could be improved, but that is not the main thing. The police are not to blame. The guilty ones are those who started the violence.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, thank you.

[Arens] Thank you.

Outlaws Islamic Jihad

TA2910183390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has outlawed the Islamic Jihad organization in Israel and the territories. A Voice of Israel reporter says the Islamic Jihad perpetrated dozens of terrorist acts against Israelis in the last few years and is responsible for the attack on an Israeli bus in Ismailia at the beginning of this year in which nine Israelis were killed.

The Islamic Jihad is the third organization to be outlawed since the beginning of the intifadah.

Border Police Commander Discusses Zamir Report

TA2710125390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Commander Meshulam 'Amit, the Border Police commander, by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Excerpts] [Talmor] All in all, you have good reason to be quite pleased with the Zamir commission report, right?

['Amit] The word pleased should of course be examined after a meticulous and absolute study of the points and conclusions contained in the report, as we are currently doing. At any rate, the report definitely stressed the professional, skilled, responsible, and good Border Police operation on the Temple Mount on 8 October.

[Talmor] You have managed to take an initial quick look at this report already. Are there things with which you are especially pleased?

['Amit] Again, an initial look at the report surely makes me pleased with the actions of the Border Police on the Temple Mount. The Border Police fought professionally and effectively, abiding by the law and existing procedures. The Zamir commission points to a single deviation from procedures, and as recommended by the commission, this deviation will be thoroughly examined by me....

[Talmor, interrupting] You are referring to the incident at the Lions' Gate.

['Amit] I am referring to this incident indeed, and I have already appointed Attorney Dov Hertz, chief superintendent from the Border Police command, to look into this issue. Still, in general, the Border Police operation was professional, skilled, in accordance with the law, and in keeping with their training and briefings on this entire issue of coping with the intifadah over the last two years.

[Talmor] What happened at the Lions' Gate which requires a special investigation?

['Amit] I do not want to present details now. The report indicates, however, that the incident there did not cause a loss in human lives. There were discipline mishaps there apparently....

[Talmor, interrupting] Did police shoot there?

['Amit] Police did shoot gas grenades and rubber bullets there. Still, I will refer to this issue only after I study it in detail, following the investigation which will be carried out by the Border Police ombudsman who is a jurist by profession. [passage omitted]

[Talmor] In the wake of the publication of this report, are we to expect any shake-ups in the Border Police, a reshuffle of commanders perhaps?

['Amit] I do not see any reason for changes. The commission is not critical of Border Police officers; on the contrary. Take the commission's analysis of the first stage of the operation, for example; the commission notes that the action by the commander of the Border Police unit on the Temple Mount was determined and good. I do not think there is room for the drawing of conclusions, and I am saying this before the examination of the subject the commission pointed to and which is currently subject to investigation. [passage omitted]

Arab Leaders Reject Zamir Commission Findings

Jerusalem's Deputy Mufti

TA2910115590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 90 p B1

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Sa'id al-Jamal, inspector of the al-Shari'a courts in the West Bank and deputy mufti of Jerusalem, by Yehuda Litani—place and date not given]

[Text] [Litani] Have you read the Zamir commission's report? Are you familiar with its findings?

[Al-Jamal] I have not read the report, but I heard the Voice of Israel's Arabic language reports on the issue. That commission is an interested party, because it was appointed by the prime minister of Israel. It is unheard of for one of the parties to a dispute to appoint itself judge and then write a report on the matter. On the other hand, I have also been apprised that the commission has made a mockery of the truth and that everything written in the report is at odds with how the police and the Border Police really acted. If the Israeli Government had really been interested in uncovering the truth, it should have cooperated with the delegation that was appointed by the Security Council.

[Litani] Are you saying that the Zamir report does not present an accurate description of what really happened? After all, you were on the Temple Mount while the events were taking place.

[Al-Jamal] The report is not at all accurate; on the contrary, various findings are exaggerated, while other important facts are not mentioned at all.

[Litani] The report states that religious officials and Muslim preachers incited the crowd before the incident started.

[Al-Jamal] When I was under arrest, I told the police that the Muslim clergy had in no way participated in the incitement. It is our people's duty to be in the al-Aqsa Mosque. The clergy called and will continue to call on Muslims to come to this sacred mosque, as prescribed by the Islamic religion.

[Litani] According to the Zamir commission's findings, several top police commanders failed to take appropriate measures. Would their dismissal satisfy the Muslims?

[Al-Jamal] As a member of the Muslim clergy, I lay the blame for the incident from beginning to end on the State of Israel, because it is responsible for security there. The government, its heads and leaders, knew about Gershon Solomon [leader of the Temple Mount Faithful] and his gang. This is not the first time he has informed the public through the media of his determined intention to set a cornerstone to what is called the Jewish Temple within the confines of al-Aqsa Mosque. Therefore, had the Israeli Government been sincere in its desire to stop him, all the violence would have been prevented. The court decision [which banned the entrance of the Temple Mount Faithful to the Temple Mount] notwithstanding, he and his gang should have been handled with an iron fist to prevent occurrences of this kind.

[Litani] In your opinion, who then is responsible for the events on the Temple Mount?

[Al-Jamal] The Israeli Government, in the clearest manner possible.

[Litani] Are there not any elements on your side who are responsible for the incidents?

[Al-Jamal] The primary responsibility lies with the Israeli Government and with all the police and Border Police officers and troops, who fired live ammunition into the crowd and ordered their subordinates to do the same with no good reason. I myself saw how they started hurling tear gas grenades: One of the border policemen sitting above the Western Wall threw a tear gas grenade to another policeman, but the grenade fell to the ground, and that same policeman lobbed the grenade toward the Muslim worshipers and it exploded in their midst. They reacted by throwing stones at the border policemen. Then the Border Police and the police started firing live ammunition at the worshipers. They could have stopped the slaughter, and that is what I told the Zamir commission. The members of the commission, however, sadly chose to ignore this fact, and I very much regret the time I wasted on them.

[Litani] Why did the police arrest and then release you?

[Al-Jamal] They believed that Faysal al-Husayni and myself had incited the Muslims to throw stones at the police. If they had had any proof of this, they would not have released us.

[Litani] Do you think both sides have learned anything from the incident and that similar violence on the Temple Mount will be avoided?

[Al-Jamal] This area belongs to the Muslims and they will on no account allow any change to the existing arrangements. The only solution is keeping the policemen and the Border Police out of the area and stopping the extremists from doing anything that comes into their mind, in order to guarantee the safety of worshipers from all denominations.

Faysal Al-Husayni

JN2710203590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Regarding the outcome of the work of the fact-finding commission, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem met with Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] What is the Palestinian stand on the outcome of the fact-finding commission's work?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, I would like to concentrate on two points. The first point is that I have not read the commission's report. But the initial information I have received indicates that it is not a commission of inquiry, but a commission to formulate the government's position.

[Ben-Menahem] The report on the al-Haram al-Sharif incidents says that the incidents resulted from provocations by Palestinians in the al-Haram al-Sharif.

[Al-Husayni] This is the Israeli Government's position. But our witnesses who saw and heard everything said that the operation began when a tear gas bomb was thrown in the direction of a group of women by mistake. When the bomb went off, a soldier took it and threw it again at the women.

[Ben-Menahem] What are the Palestinian demands regarding the report?

[Al-Husayni] As I said, I believe that this report is meant to completely justify the Israeli Government's position. What we want is a neutral commission. Hence, it is important to send a UN commission to discuss the issue. We simply say that neither the current political situation nor the way the Israeli Government is handling the situation in the occupied territories qualifies it to run these territories or draw correct conclusions about the current events in this region.

[Ben-Menahem] You also testified before the fact-finding commission?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I testified before the commission. I believed that the commission was serious in its efforts to reach real results. Once again, I would like to say that I do not want to comment. But according to initial information, I can say that I am sorry to waste your time. [end recording]

Defense Budget Increased Due to Gulf Crisis

TA2910165790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i disclosed that he approved a supplementary budget of an additional 500 million shekels for defense because of the higher alert necessary due to the Gulf crisis. At the same time, the defense establishment will have to implement spending cuts not directly linked to defense preparedness. Within the framework of the

supplementary budget, which will be presented to the Cabinet within the next two weeks, the Treasury will demand cuts in services provided to defense personnel.

[Begin Moda'i recording] That means things like a change in work conditions, dropping various incentives not linked to actual work, such as sports clothes, vacations, and apartments, [of which the government] pays half. I do not want to analyze the whole thing now. We have no choice but to significantly cut spending in these areas, because they have nothing to do with Israel's military alert. [end recording]

The finance minister said the supplementary budget will require a deep cut in government outlays and several ministries will have to introduce changes in their activities. Moda'i confirmed that the public would face additional financial burdens. [passage omitted]

Army Stocks Replenished

TA3010084890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv—Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and fear that Baghdad might attack Israel has led the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to speed the upgrading of tanks, to repair communications equipment, replenish ammunition and medical stores, and obtain more components for field fortifications, military sources have told THE JERUSALEM POST.

These measures have led officers to believe that the army is already much better equipped for war, even though some deliveries are still pending.

The Iraqi move into Kuwait caught the IDF in the midst of a long period of retrenchment. Some stored equipment was used over the past few years and not replaced due to budgetary cuts. Some projects were shelved because they were too expensive.

Those cuts were originally made while Iraq was fighting Iran, and a war on Israel's eastern front was deemed highly unlikely.

But the summer's developments led the defense establishment to order an upgrading of the army's readiness and preparations for a longer war than originally anticipated.

The army's Quartermaster Corps subsequently reviewed its stores—including the supplies of spare parts, ammunition, medical equipment, food, clothing and fuel—and presented its findings to Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron. The details are classified, but Shomron decided to replenish the stores, set an order of priorities for doing so, and the Treasury came forward with NIS [new Israeli shekel] 330 million.

Part of the effort was directed at repairing and upgrading existing equipment. The Quartermaster Corps sometimes worked around the clock to examine communications equipment, the military sources said.

A special effort has been made to upgrade tanks. Garages repaired hundreds of engines, gears, and observation, fire control and recoiling systems.

The pressure from GHQ to get the project running was described as "atomic," and the results have already improved the stores "significantly," officers said.

The defense establishment also pressed local industries to speed deliveries. Ammunition was high on the list. Other, less urgent orders, called for more medical and fortification equipment.

Getting foreign suppliers to advance delivery dates was more difficult, but the IDF chalked up some successes, the military sources added.

Improving the army's ability to cope with a chemical attack was especially emphasized. Better protection has been acquired for units trained to operate in, or near, contaminated areas. Troops have complained it was difficult to work in the old equipment.

Front-line fighters are to be equipped with charcoal-lined uniforms imported from Europe, the sources said. The charcoal is supposed to absorb the gas, and large numbers of such uniforms are already here. But there are, still, not enough for all units.

The IDF also bought more gas masks for its soldiers. The soldiers' masks come in three sizes, and the army wanted to be sure it had enough of each size, the sources added.

Extradition of Tour Bus Attackers Not Sought

TA2910145190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 29 oct 90

[Text] A few months ago Egypt quietly arrested Palestinians charged with involvement in the attack on the [Israeli] tourist bus traveling to Cairo on 4 February 1990. This was reported by REUTER today. The attack left nine Israelis and two Egyptians dead.

A source in the Egyptian capital reported that the detainees will be brought to court for trial.

The Israeli Embassy in Cairo has reported that Jerusalem will not demand the extradition of the detainees and that so far no announcement on the matter has come from Egypt.

Entry Criteria for Territories Residents Stiffened

TA2910180890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The decision to apply harsher criteria for the issuing of entry permits for residents of the territories to cross the Green Line was made official tonight.

According to what has already been reported, people with a criminal record, those who committed security offenses or who served an administrative detention sentence, individuals who participated in disturbances, instigators, and people guilty of similar acts will not be eligible for such licenses.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the session in the defense minister's office was attended by the chief of staff, the heads of the Shin Bet, the police, and Civil Administration officials.

More Stabbings in Jerusalem, Nabulus

TA3010075090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpts] A short while ago, a policeman was stabbed near the new central bus station in East Jerusalem. The policeman sustained a slight injury; his attacker was apprehended. [passage omitted]

Official Army sources have just reported that at about 0900 this morning, the driver of a vehicle escorting a fuel truck was attacked in Nabulus. The civilian, who was stabbed, suffered moderately serious wounds and was evacuated to a hospital. His attacker was shot dead. Nabulus was declared a closed military zone.

Arab Killed, Two Wounded in Attempted Bombing

TA3010061890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpt] A bomb went off in downtown Bene Beraq about one hour ago. The bomb exploded in the hands of an Arab who was setting it up, killing him and moderately wounding another Arab. A third person was slightly wounded; his identity is unknown. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Says Soviet Policy Exploits Arab Unity

TA3010090290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The Soviet Union is gathering the courage to assume a position on the Gulf crisis distinct from that of the United States and has reverted to its traditional Middle East policy, which in essence exploits Arab unity to isolate the United States and Israel. This assessment was made last night by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, in reference to the latest Soviet moves and President Gorbachev's declarations in Paris.

Ben-Aharon said that "a very interesting shift" has been taking place in relations between the superpowers in the Middle East context. Gorbachev is highlighting the differences between his and President Bush's approach, which surfaced at the Helsinki summit, and is leading the USSR "toward the middle." He added that the Soviet Union again wants to lead the Arab world by taking advantage of Arab unity to oppose the United States and Israel.

Under the disguise of an improvement in bilateral superpower relations, the traditional Soviet policy toward the Middle East in general and the Israeli-Arab conflict in particular has resurfaced, echoing the traditional Soviet policy since the early 1950's, he said. The USSR, he added, is now taking action to offset the U.S. achievements in the Gulf crisis and to sabotage arrangements that would grant the United States substantial political gains at the end of the crisis.

U.S. Ships Return Ship Bound for Al-'Aqabah

JN3010085490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 90 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—American warships enforcing the U.N. international embargo against Iraq intercepted a ship en route to the Jordanian Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah, according to shipping sources in Amman.

The Blue Nile, sailing under a Sudanese flag, was intercepted and turned back Oct. 28 at 11 a.m. for "irrelevant reasons," the sources in contact with the ship said. "They (U.S. Navy) misinterpreted the abbreviating of some commericial cargo on the manifest," the source quoted a Blue Nile officer as saying. The Blue Nile has sailed back to Port Sudan to wait for instructions.

The ship, which has been turned back from al-'Aqabah once before for a similar reason, was carrying general cargo ranging from animal food to electrical appliances.

Shipping line agents have contactd the concerned government authorities about the blockade. The agents said they "got the impression that the government was planning to take this issue to the highest authorities." Jordanian officials and American Embassy diplomats could not be reached for comment Moday evening.

Many shipping agents and officials believe these actions are designed to block activity at the port in order to further place pressure on Jordan for its perceived pro-Iraqi stance in the crisis.

Jordan has refused to support the deployment of foreign forces "in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf but at the same time has called for an Iraqi withdrawal and has rejected Iraq's occupation of Kuwait." The Kingdom has also pledged to adhere to U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq.

Saudi Arabia has also taken steps seen as aimed at hampering shipping to the Kingdom. Riyadh, citing unprecedented customs procedures, is delaying transshipments destined for Jordan at the Red Sea port of Jeddah. In addition to the piling up of over 200 containers destined for Jordan at Jeddah, a "new Saudi trend has surfaced," Tawfiq Qa'war, president of the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association, said last week. He said it had become difficult for ships to sail to al-'Aqabah from Saudi ports to pick up Jordanian exports of phosphates.

Qa'war accused Saudi customs authorities of "deliberately delaying the clearance process (for vessels bound for al-'Aqabah) by ignoring our repated requests."

King, Yemen's Salih Discuss Crisis Over Phone

JN3010113790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 30 Oct (PETRA)—The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone contact with Republic of Yemen President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday. They exchanged views on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the efforts being made on the Arab and international levels to reach a political settlement of this crisis and other Middle East issues.

Al-Qasim Defends Position on Gulf Crisis

JN2910144690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Salah Salamah and Randah Habib in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Your Excellency Minister Marwan al-Qasim, the Soviet presidential envoy, Primakov, has not visited Amman during his current Arab tour. Does this mean that the initiative launched by King Husayn at the beginning of the crisis aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement in the Gulf has been overtaken by events?

[Al-Qasim] Never. In the first place, the Jordanian initiative was the first initiative launched to impose a peaceful solution. And, in the second place, the Jordanian initiative aimed at containing the problem that arose between Iraq and Kuwait at the Arab level. His majesty the king was the first to get acceptance in principle to a withdrawal by the Iraqi leadership. From the start and until 5 August this year, if given the chance, the Jordanian initiative could have prevented the crisis from developing into what it is now. As regards Mr. Primakov's mission, naturally, this was due to the Jordanian position and determination that we must provide together the solution to the crisis, either through the region or through international legitimacy. On that basis, he came over and met with his majesty the king and then proceeded with his mission. We are in constant contact and consultations with the Soviets and others who are concerned with providing spheres for the peaceful solution of the crisis in the Gulf.

[Salamah] Is there a formula for a tangible and clear solution carried by Primakov to the region?

[Al-Qasim] Naturally, international legitimacy, which all presidents—at regional or international levels—have stressed, says there must be a peaceful settlement based on the principle of withdrawal and of dealing with the issues that led to this crisis, from which the Arab people in this region have suffered and are still suffering.

[Salamah] Regarding the demand to link the Palestine question with the Gulf crisis, does the Soviet Union accept this position?

[Al-Qasim] I believe that when Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze made certain proposals about a month and a half ago, it became clear that there must be a comprehensive view of the region's problems. This means that there may be a comprehensive view to resolve the problems, but in keeping with priorities. The

Soviets and others in the world believe that first priority must be given to the Gulf crisis. When we deal with the crisis according to the standard set by the charters, whether the UN Charter or the other regional charters that organize relations among states, this standard must affect the other spheres and problems, from which the region has been suffering for some decades now.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the Minister: One gets the impression from the measures taken by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states that Jordan is suspected of not only failing to enforce international sanctions against Iraq, but also adopting the Iraqi blueprint for a solution. The question is: How do you approach the UN Security Council resolutions, and how is Jordan's position different from Iraq's demands?

[Al-Qasim] As a matter of fact, Jordan was one of the first countries to comply with the Security Council resolutions. You must be aware that several Arab and non-Arab parties would have liked Jordan to shake off its commitment to the Security Council resolutions. Jordan has from 1967 steadfastly held to this position. Any resolution passed by the Security Council is binding on whatever country that cares about its credibility in the international community—a fact that has been borne out insofar as recent UN resolutions. This applies as much to the Gulf crisis as to any other issue affecting us.

You are aware that back in 1967 Jordan subscribed to Resolution 242. In the early eighties, Jordan acted likewise in relation to the Falklands during the aggression on those islands. We have acted consistently on other issues. We will not accept the occupation of territory by force, it being contrary to Arab and UN charters. The Security Council resolutions are binding on all UN member nations. Jordan has been absolutely clear on the Security Council resolutions—something we made plain in our speech at the United Nations nearly a month ago.

[Salamah] And what do you say to the contention that, practically speaking, Jordan is not observing the embargo? The charge has been aired in newspapers and other media and even by officials.

[Al-Qasim] Jordan only speaks for itself, and Jordan is committed to and fully implements what was contained in the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions dealing with the embargo. However, there have been persistent attempts to do violence to Jordan's reputation and credibility, when we are making every effort to bring back stability to the region through dialogue, and to promote a peaceful solution. Unlike others, Jordan does not see a solution being produced by a military option, since military action will cause a catastrophe in which none of the parties and countries in the region and beyond will be spared. For this reason, Jordan will pursue its attempts with all sincerity and loyalty to attain the peaceful solution, because there is no solution other than this. As an Arab country, we have to lay the groundwork and create the right climate for an Arab-based solution.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the Minister: Allow me to give time to my colleague Randah Habib to ask you a few questions.

[Habib] Your Excellency the Minister: After Jordan was accused of ambiguity toward international sanctions against Iraq, the United States has finally admitted that Jordan is fully adhering to these sanctions. Has this recognition on the part of the United States been translated into material compensation on the ground?

[Al-Qasim] Since the beginning of the embargo and the Security Council resolution that provides for the embargo, Jordan has been committed to the resolution. There are continuous attempts, however, to undermine Jordan's credibility and reputation. These attempts have been pursued for a number of weeks, and Jordan has suffered a great deal. It is the country that has completely adhered to the resolution since the beginning. In the end, the United States has finally said: Yes, Jordan has adhered to the resolution. Proceeding from this, other countries began to look at Jordan in a way different from the one that was the outcome of the continuous attempts to tarnish Jordan's credibility. Consequently, we received many promises that Jordan will necessarily have to be reimbursed for the great damage it has sustained from its commitment to the embargo. However, until now we have promises, but the aid needed to compensate Jordan for the great damage—which is far more than any estimation—has not arrived. As you know, the U.S. Administration began a few days ago to say, through its Secretary of State Mr. Baker, that it is now sure that Jordan is fully adhering to the resolution. Our image, at least as depicted by the media, has changed on U.S. and other arenas, though there is still some misunderstanding of our position in some neighboring countries. But we hope that we will be able to overcome this as soon as possible.

[Habib] Your Excellency the Minister: How do Arab-Arab differences over the Gulf crisis reflect on the economy of the kingdom, especially after some Arab countries adopted punitive measures against Jordan, such as halting oil supplies and freezing aid?

[Al-Qasim] Of course Jordan has suffered a great deal at the hands of its Arab brothers as well as others in this world. We think that Arab-Arab differences, as we always say, affect Jordan adversely, and that Arab solidarity and accord have an immense, positive impact on Jordan. However, Jordan will always work for Arab solidarity and accord because we have a national interest in this and we are aspiring to a pan-Arab capability that surpasses by far the current situation we are experiencing. As for some fraternal countries that wanted to or attempted to penalize Jordan, we think they have made a big mistake because Jordan has only a positive outlook—the solid Arab ground, which follows a state of Arab accord, where there is room for honest dealings and farsightedness in treatment. The final Arab-Arab relationship is the most important relationship in any formula, whether related to the Gulf crisis, the Palestine

question, Lebanon, or any other case —which might not be political but economic or social—because eventually this Arab world should coexist with itself before coexisting with others.

[Salamah] One last question, please. You know that the positions of the parties directly involved in the Gulf crisis have not yet changed and that peace endeavors are still coupled with threats to use military force. Which do you think will prevail, the logic of negotiations or the war option?

[Al-Qasim] As I said in my answer to the first question, we in this country do not see any option other than the peace option because the military solution cannot be an option at all. The military option, in the final analysis, means the destruction of the region. I do not believe that those who are close to the crisis will have any protection, guarantee, or peace. The entire region will be victim of the military disaster, not the option. I believe that we should strongly and honestly support the course leading to the revival of the peace solution and the relations that must prevail between two neighboring Arab countries, Kuwait and Iraq. The Arab side should play a major and effective role in providing the ground for such relations between the two Arab countries.

[Salamah] Will you please allow me to comment on this particular point? Can the Arab side prevent war in the region if other sides want war?

[Al-Qasim] This is the question we wanted to avoid from the beginning. On the second day of the Iraqi military operation in Kuwait, His Majesty King Husayn tried to contain the problem at the Arab level in order to prevent further peace or war complications. Other non-Arab parties have basic, vital, and major interests, and they may not approve of the Arabs' concept of a final solution to inter-Arab problems.

[Salamah] Some of these parties say that they have the capability of using military force.

[Al-Qasim] The massive concentration of these forces in the region is based on certain calculations and capabilities. We believe that these large forces have come to this region without considering a certain option, which we believe will be a disaster for the region. For this reason, we hope and we encourage the other Arab countries concerned to consider the situation. We also see some change in certain Arab countries, and a new sense of national and pan-Arab responsibility has begun to clearly surface. Several countries like the PRC, the Soviet Union, Germany, and France have begun to show more interest in the issue because they are aware of the extent of the dangers, which will threaten the region and the world if the matter is left to the others, who believe that the military option will solve the current crisis that we are facing.

[Salamah] Your Excellency the Minister, thank you for this conversation.

[Al-Qasim] Thank you, my brother.

Columnist Analyzes Syria's Anti-U.S. Campaign

JN2910171190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Oct 90 p 18

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Separating Crises and Washington's Roles]

[Text] During the past few days, the attention of observers has been drawn to the fact that Syrian papers have resumed their campaign against the United States following a hiatus that began with the Gulf crisis, on which both Damascus and Washington have known views. As for the occasion of this media campaign, it is the United States' showering Tel Aviv with aid at a time when the Security Council was issuing its first and second resolutions condemning the al-Aqsa massacre—as if the United States wanted to ease its sense of guilt for condemning Israel's crime at the al-Aqsa Mosque. The media campaign went so far as to address a serious and urgent call to Arabs to review their position toward the U.S. Administration in light of the latter's stance on Israel. What draws attention to this campaign is that it comes at a time when Syrian-U.S. relations have developed as never before. This progress was achieved on the bases of the coinciding stands on the Gulf crisis. Syria is one of only three Arab countries that sent troops to Saudi Arabia to work alongside U.S. forces (practically under U.S. command). Damascus is constantly receiving ranking U.S. envoys, one of which was Secretary of State James Baker, whose spokesmen were the first to announce a visit by President Hafiz al-Asad to Tehran.

In addition to the Gulf crisis—the point of agreement—recent developments caused a point of convergence in Syrian and U.S. views since Washington had unreservedly expressed satisfaction over the removal of General Michel 'Awn by Syrian and Lebanese forces. The latest statements by the U.S. ambassador in Damascus reflect to a great extent the similarities in the views of the two parties and their joint vision of the future situation in Lebanon.

In this atmosphere, the fact that the Syrian media campaign against the U.S. Administration was renewed should be considered a surprising development requiring attention.

In explaining this development, the Syrian theory about separating the crises presents the clearest explanation for this campaign. Damascus believes that there is no link between the Gulf crisis and the Israeli occupation. In this context, it considers the U.S. presence in the Peninsula one thing, U.S. support for Israel another, and the U.S. position toward Lebanon a third issue. Proceeding from this theory, one could support the U.S. presence here, reach an understanding with the United States elsewhere, and condemn it in a third situation. In other words, Washington itself could be acceptable, even desired and needed here (in the Peninsula and the Gulf), could merit understanding and coordination there (in Lebanon), and could have a media campaign against it elsewhere (in Tel Aviv). If it is not possible to accept this

theory in form and policy, then reality dictates that Washington not shed its skin regardless of its spheres of influence. If Washington is dealt with through more than one policy, then the case is really that U.S. policy is firm. The U.S. presence in the Gulf and Peninsula seeks securing the safety and interests of America's friends in the region, foremost of which is Israel. U.S. influence in Lebanon seeks, in its turn, covering up for the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, entrenching it as a reality on the ground, and preventing the implementation of international legitimacy there: Resolution 425.

If the media campaign against Washington finds acceptance among Arab citizens in view of the nature of Arab feelings toward Washington and all the roles it plays in tne region, then the question here arises regarding the call to the Arabs to revise their views of the U.S. Administration, as was stated in the Syrian press campaign last Friday. Which Arabs are the ones invited to revise their views? And what are the proposed measures to realize a revision of views of the U.S. Administration?

Editorial Views Britain, Palestine Question

JN3010123590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Oct 90 p 1, 11 Second Edition pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Thatcher Is Stationed in the Gulf, But Her First Target Is Palestine"]

[Text] Linking the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question is actually taking place by all international sides. Some of these sides, such as leaders Gorbachev and Mitterrand, follow this style of positive linking, which is very close to what the Jordanian and Iraqi leaderships are proposing regarding the need to find a comprehensive, just, and radical solution for all pending issues in the Middle East.

Some other international leaderships, such as the British prime minister and those in Washington pushing for war, also believe deep down inside that linking the Gulf and Palestine questions is actually happening and is necessary, but under a different equation.

The British prime minister, who is considered the official spokeswoman for warmongers, did not leave any doubt that she wishes and is working to ruin the Iraqi economic and military structure. As Thatcher pushes this policy to the limit, her objective is not to protect the oil or the Arab countries in the Gulf, but to paralyze Arab power and determination for the next 10 years at least.

Any objective diagnosis of this British goal shows, in brief, that the Middle East will be left as an open arena for Israeli military power, thus aborting any regional possibility of putting pressure on Tel Aviv to solve the Palestine question in a just, comprehensive, and vital manner.

The Gulf crisis has revealed a number of important facts of the reality on the ground. One of these facts, which cannot be reversed, is that the Palestine question has become the center of international awareness. Those with logic and good intentions among the international leaderships are dealing positively with the link between the Gulf and the Palestine question in the search for real solutions. As for the others, those with a bloody history of relations with the Arab world such as Britain, they are stationed in the Gulf while their first and prime target is to cancel the Palestine question.

Ministers Sa'adah, Al-Khalil Leave for Damascus

NC3010085790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Minister George Sa'adah left this morning for talks in Damascus with senior Syrian officials on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Phalangist Party sources expressed satisfaction with the coming phase and noted that the countdown for eradicating the existing situation in northern al-Matn and B'abda has started. The sources pointed out that Sa'adah's visit aims to discuss means to expedite the formation of an expanded accord government.

Meanwhile, Minister 'Ali al-Khalil also left for Damascus to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Al-Khalil has stated that he expects greater Beirut to be established in a few days.

Al-Huss on Greater Beirut, Government Reshuffle

NC3010103290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In a statement today, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss expressed the government's interest in accomplishing the Greater Beirut Plan and voiced confidence that this measure will be achieved in a very short time, now that all parties have shown good responses.

Asked whether the current government will take the responsibility for appointing deputies and filling vacancies, he replied: First, the government must submit to the Chamber of Deputies a bill amending the parliamentary election law according to the constitutional article that allows appointments to fill vacant and newly-established posts one time only as an exception. This bill is currently being prepared and will be referred to the Chamber of Deputies soon.

On the government reshuffle, al-Huss said it is a required measure and must be carried out when the circumstances are ripe. He added: We hope this will not take long because we view the expected government reshuffle as one of the phases of the reconciliation process, which has made a significant stride towards implementation.

Al-Huss met with Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi and Marwan Hamadah this morning.

French Official Visits at Speaker's Invitation

Confers With Al-Huss

NC2810212090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received Gerard Bapt, head of the French-Lebanese Friendship Society and socialist deputy, at 1100 today.

In a statement after the meeting, Bapt said his visit is in response to a personal invitation from Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, adding: It was natural to meet with President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister al-Huss, and Army Commander General Lahhud. I hope I will be able to meet with the officials who are making weighty decisions in Lebanon's current circumstances, particularly regarding the Greater Beirut Plan.

To a question about the tension which has recently engulfed Lebanese-French relations, Bapt said: I have read of this tension in the French newspapers. I now better understand, however, the Lebanese reaction. I will convey the Lebanese reaction to the French authorities and Foreign Ministry as well as to the French president, with whom I will meet upon my return to France.

Asked if he will meet with General Michel 'Awn, who is currently at the French Embassy, Bapt said: I will not meet with Gen. 'Awn as his case concerns the French and Lebanese Governments. I hope that this case will be resolved without creating any dispute between France and Lebanon.

Learns Army Role From Commander

NC2910101590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Gerard Bapt, chairman of the French-Lebanese Friendship Society and member of the French National Assembly, this morning called on Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, who explained to Deputy Bapt the Lebanese Army brigades' and units' security role in the two al-Matn regions and their readiness to extend their deployment to the boundaries of greater Beirut. Gen. Lahhud affirmed to his guest that the Army safeguards the people's security and property and suppresses offenses by any party. He told him that excesses that accompanied the implementation of the 13 October operation have completely disappeared. The responsibility for excesses and for everything that took place in the past two years is borne by those who always rejected the calls for peace and unity. Gen. Lahhud informed Deputy Bapt that the Army command has established an office to receive the citizens' complaints and that this office is working night and day to resolve incidental problems.

Comments on Situation, Departs

NC2910180290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In a statement prior to his departure from Beirut today, Gerard Bapt, chairman of the French-Lebanese Friendship Society and member of the French National Assembly, said Lebanon currently needs France more than at any time before. He added that there is a real chance to start a process for the return of sovereignty on the basis of the al-Ta'if accord.

Bapt went on to say: I must say that the situation I saw here is not the same as depicted by the French newspapers. He stressed that a normal situation has been restored to the areas that were under the control of General Michel 'Awn.

To a question about 'Awn's political asylum in France, Bapt expressed the conviction that the situation seems frozen, adding that the Lebanese Government is extremely firm and wants 'Awn to stand trial.

Mansur on Use of Force To End State of War

NC2610152990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Albert Mansur said today that there are many complicated issues which should be resolved. He stressed, however, that the train has been put on the right track and has enough momentum to proceed to the final destination. Minister Mansur added: We have a good chance to end the state of war and begin a reconciliation process.

Meanwhile, Minister Mansur told REUTER that the state will use force against any Lebanese group which does not accept an end to the state of war. The minister, however, expressed the conviction that there will be no need for this step, adding: As far as I know, there are no political obstacles in this regard.

In his statement to REUTER, Minister Mansur said he will hold contacts with the various sides in a bid to establish a greater Beirut free of militias. He noted that only the Lebanese Army, with the support of the fraternal Syrian Arab Army whenever need arises, will control greater Beirut.

The defense minister went on to say that liberation of the South will primarily be the responsibility of the Lebanese Army. He added that the resistance was mentioned in one of the provisions of the al-Ta'if Accord as follows: The land of the South shall be liberated by all available means. Minister Mansur stressed that this is one of the tasks to be carried out by those who will implement the al-Ta'if Accord.

Mansur Satisfied With 'Reconciliation Process'

NC2810134490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In a telephone interview with our radio today, Defense Minister Albert Mansur said that the two-man ministerial committee [composed of himself and Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul] is intensifying its consultations with all parties to implement security measures in al-Matn and to initiate political moves to consolidate the drive for peace in the country.

Minister Mansur said: There are positive developments that will come to light soon. The reconciliation process is moving ahead satisfactorily and the ministerial committee has not encountered any obstacles, he noted.

As for the opening of roads and crossings, the defense minister said: The roads are theoretically open, but it is necessary to proceed carefully when defusing mines, as haste could result in casualties.

The minister said that after 15 years of war, the Lebanese now have a real chance to work together and rebuild their country. He added that he considers himself a minister of peace, and not of war. The minister said that matters are improving daily. Tomorrow will be better than today, and the day after tomorrow will be better still, he said.

Ministerial Committee Meets With Groups on Plan

Meets With Amal's Nabih Birri

NC2810213990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The two-man ministerial committee composed of Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul met with Amal leader and Minister Nabih Birri this evening. The meeting falls within the context of the committee's consultations with parties and organizations to implement the Cabinet's decisions which provide for consolidating the state's authority in greater Beirut.

After the meeting, Minister Birri declared that the Amal Movement is totally prepared to respond to every step required to enable the legitimate government to consolidate its control, such as the withdrawal of gunmen, removal of all armed offices and centers, and commitment to all measures dictated by this step.

In his statement, Minister Birri added: I have already instructed the movement to be ready for implementation once the committee sets the hour.

Meets LCP, Hizballah Leaders

NC2910183890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Ministerial Committee, charged with following up the implementation of the cabinet's decision to consolidate the state's authority over greater Beirut, resumed its contacts this afternoon. The committee, composed of Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul, visited the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] headquarters at 1530 and met with the party's leadership. Minister Dallul said after the meeting that the views were completely identical and the party's response was perfect. This is bound to give a boost to our mission, Dallul added.

The committee then visited Hizballah headquarters and met with Hizballah Secretary General Shavkh Subhi al-Tufayli and members of the Political Bureau. Minister Mansur stressed that the meeting was extremely positive and that the talks were held in an atmosphere of complete frankness, understanding, and cooperation. He added that the results will appear very soon.

Mansur Meets SSNP Delegation

NC3010124790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Following his meeting with a delegation representing the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP], Minister Albert Mansur said: There was full accord. The SSNP leaders gave full support. He added: We will determine a date for implementing the Greater Beirut Plan in light of all the contacts. He noted that there was no disagreement on defining the limits of greater Beirut. [passage omitted]

To Meet With Ja'ja' 30 Oct

NC2910204790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur are continuing their meetings with leading Lebanese figures prior to the establishment of greater Beirut. The Ministerial Committee will meet with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' tomorrow. Ministers Mansur and Dallul met at 2000 today with the leaders of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party Emergency Command. Earlier, they met with the leaders of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Minister Mansur stated after a meeting with Hizballah leaders that the latter are unreservedly responsive to the establishment of greater Beirut, adding that results will appear soon.

Mansur explained that the Lebanese Resistance is not connected with the disbandment of the militias because the role of this resistance is to liberate the south. He hoped that all the militias will go to the south to liberate it.

[Hizballah Secretary General] Subhi al-Tufayli said: Our opinion has been stated by Minister Mansur. We welcome the greater Beirut authority.

He asserted that Hizballah has no conditions regarding greater Beirut.

Ja'ja' Interviewed on Government, Dialogue

NC2910083190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has given interviews to the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD and United Arab Emirates [UAE] television, in which he said that the collection of the Lebanese Forces' weapons will take place within the state's security plan. Dr. Ja'ja' said that he is ready to resolve all the problems with all parties and to establish a final peace. Dr. Ja'ja' said: We want greater Beirut. We want more measures to extend the state's power. We also want a strong and effective government, based on national accord, in which everyone is represented.

Dr. Ja'ja' said that it is hard to see how any measures can be implemented before the state gains uncontested control of the areas recently handed to it. Unless such control is established, all the recent achievements will be worthless. Therefore, we call on the legitimate government to consolidate its moves. Otherwise, greater Beirut will become a myth.

The Lebanese Forces commander reiterated that the function of the [Christian] Lebanese resistance is to help rebuild the Lebanese state and to establish a modern Lebanese system that meets the aspirations of all groups. Here is a recording of what Dr. Ja'ja' told UAE television:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified interviewer] Are you ready to sit at one table with all the rival parties, with Walid Junblatt, Hizballah....

[Ja'ja', interrupting] Absolutely. Absolutely. The fact is, there is no way to resolve the problems except through dialogue. We regard every group and every party that has supported the al-Ta'if agreement as eligible for dialogue. We have no personal or other reasons to forestall dialogue. The disputes we have are mainly political, not personal. All the violence and military actions that have been going on for the past 15 years have a political basis. Our view is that once the al-Ta'if agreement was signed and accepted by all sides, we no longer had problems with any side or party. Therefore, we are open to dialogue and communication. Our doors are open to all. Whoever wants dialogue is welcome. Those who want war should look elsewhere. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] There is a question that I think is worth asking, as it haunts many now: Relations between the Lebanese Forces and Damascus, before and after [the Israeli invasion in] 1982, have always been strained to one degree or another. Today there are some developments on the Lebanese scene that interest Syria as well as others. To what extent is Samir Ja'ja' ready to open a dialogue with the Syrians today? And, for example, if you have the chance, would you visit Damascus?

[Ja'ja'] You have asked me to what extent. Well, to the extent that ensures the sovereignty, freedom, independence, and security of Lebanon. It is as simple as that. We have no ideological enmity with any party. We were in a struggle against some Arab and non-Arab parties because of their actions in Lebanon. Once these actions change—and, in the framework of the al-Ta'if agreement it is clear that the Lebanese state is regaining control of the Lebanese territories. [leaves sentence incomplete] I believe that the al-Ta'if agreement has given every side their rights and has opened the way to rebuilding the state that for 15 years has been in need of reconstruction. Therefore, I hope that the coming phase will be one of detente on all levels, particularly regarding acceleration of the rebuilding of the state and the government and its departments, and also regarding expanding state control over the country. We need that in order to bring freedom, independence, and prosperity back to our country. [end recording]

Lebanese Forces on Greater Beirut, Government

NC2810131990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] A responsible Lebanese Forces source today told the newspaper AL-HAYAH that the Lebanese Forces will convey their views concerning greater Beirut to the committee composed of Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur. The Lebanese Forces believe that the geographical boundaries of greater Beirut should extend from Nahr al-Kalb in the north to al-Awwali in the south, as this will achieve the necessary balance. The source said that it is unacceptable to apply a greater Beirut concept to East Beirut, from the museum and Nahr al-Kalb to Bikfayya and 'Alayh, and a lesser Beirut concept to West Beirut.

As for the coastal road between Beirut and the north, the source said that the Lebanese Forces do not object to placing that road under government control. The source added: We call on the state to begin by immediately closing the illegal ports between al-Jiyah and al-Awza'i and by bringing the security situation in al-Matn under control. This, the source said, should be accomplished before the greater Beirut issue is tackled.

The source said that the current government cannot implement the greater Beirut plan as it has been unable to bring the security situation in al-Matn under control. The government, the source added, completed its mission when it ended the rebellion. The government, he continued, has failed to prove its seriousness in addressing urgent economic and social issues. Reconciliation requires the participation of all existing forces, the source said, adding that the al-Ta'if agreement specifically stated that the security plan should be implemented by a government of national reconciliation.

Junblatt Wants Defense Portfolio, Free Elections

NC2710215890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In an interview with REUTERS, Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Leader Walid Junblatt said: I will not hand over my weapons except to the Syrian Arab Army. I will return what was given to me in trust to its source.

He added: I want to know if the other party—the Lebanese Forces militia—will hand over the weapons which are stored in large quantities in Kasrawan and Jubayl. I want a guarantee that these weapons will not remain where they are. We need a committee, which could be a joint Arab-international committee, to supervise this matter.

Junblatt continued: If Army Commander General Emile Lahhud appoints reliable people and purges the Army of some suspect officers, then there will no longer be a problem.

Asked if he had obtained guarantees from Syria, the PSP leader said: My guarantee has always been, and will remain, the leader Hafiz al-Asad and the rest of the Syrian leadership. Syria and I have no disagreement.

He asked: Will the commander of the so-called Lebanese Forces hand over his weapons to the Syrian Army? If he does so, then I will have no objection to doing the same.

He added: If Ja'ja' hands over his weapons, then we will hand over ours. There is no problem. If the Syrians ask me to hand over my weapons before he does, I will not object.

Regarding the proposed new government, Junblatt said: I want a basic portfolio. I ask for the defense portfolio.

He said he believes that the borders of greater Beirut, which is expected to be proclaimed, must extend from al-Damur in the South to Nahr al-Kalb in the North. He said this must be implemented with the participation of the Lebanese Army, noting that this is an additional guarantee. He wondered why al-Ashrafiyah, part of the greater Beirut area, should not have a Syrian Army presence.

Junblatt demanded that the troops and officers of the Popular Liberation Army be allowed to join the Lebanese Army.

Responding to a question on whether the support given by various parties to the al-Ta'if agreement signifies an end of the state of enmity, the PSP leader answered: We have a political disagreement in the country—a historical disagreement that is decades old—about the policy of the Phalangist Party and the so-called Lebanese Forces. It is not a question of kissing and making up.

On Dany Sham'un's assassination, Junblatt added: Apparently, opposition is not permitted. Tomorrow they will certainly ban the freedom of the press. The al-Ta'if agreement for peace in Lebanon set clear limits for a political settlement that we accept. The democratic struggle, however, continues. This country is not a dictatorship, but is a democracy. We have the right to express our views through the press and television. If they want to silence us, then al-Ta'if will be a form of terrorism.

Junblatt said he opposes filling a number of vacant parliamentary seats by appointment. He added: I have called for free elections. I oppose the appointment of deputies, even for one time only. This is an innovation, a heresy.

He added that some people rule by terror these days, and when the elections are held all the guns in the world will not protect them.

The PSP said that Ja'ja' is getting the most benefit from the current Arab-international equation. He added that if the Americans choose to support the Army and to disband the militias, then all weapons must be gathered. When that happens, I do not oppose the formation of a joint U.S.-Lebanese, and even, Syrian committee, to gather the weapons. Let the U.S. fleet come and gather the Ja'ja' weapons.

Junblatt on Ja'ja' in Cabinet, Palestinian Arms

NC2910123190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, today gave an interview to French television's Channel Two. Junblatt said that the only guarantee for Lebanese nationalists and Druze is Syria. If they [not further specified] could not forgive such a prominent Christian leader as Dany Sham'un, would they forgive Walid Junblatt? This is why I do not see any guarantee other than Syria.

Junblatt added: We will press ahead with the peace march. We are taking part in the current events, but we know Lebanon only too well. It is hard to bring a bloody chapter to an end overnight. There were times before when it was said the war is over, and fighting broke out again. We have to remain aware that the Phalangists and the Lebanese Forces, despite their defeat, are in a festive mood. They think they have more assets than we do.

Answering a question about the new government and the prospect that [Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir] Ja'ja' may take part in it, Junblatt said: I may be forced by circumstances to tolerate that, but I will retain my right to opposition. My question is: What is the fate of democratic liberties and the press in Lebanon?

Junblatt called for the deployment of the Arab Syrian Army in al-Ashrafiyah to enforce security in greater Beirut.

In another interview with Italian media, Junblatt has said: I call for a comprehensive, broad, nationalist government. I call for the representation of the nationalist parties in the government and for the government to be formed on a nationalist rather than a sectarian basis. The Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces are going to take a big share, and the nationalists should not be deprived of their share.

Concerning relations with Syria and the claims that Syria is trying to annex Lebanon, Junblatt said: We have to have political and economic relations with Syria. This is a normal matter and does not mean that Syria is annexing Lebanon. There are historical relations involved. Also, we should not forget that President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly pledged commitment to Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. This is an important issue.

Junblatt said: I do not see any future for the Arabs without the establishment of an Arab common market. This is the only civilized way to preserve the political system in every country.

As for the Palestinians, Junblatt said: I call for guarantees for the Lebanese, as well as the Palestinians. I am not for the collection of weapons from the Palestinians. We should not allow the repetition of [the massacre of Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camps of] Sabra and Shatila. We should not forget that Ja'ja' is going to participate in the new government.

Sources Say Al-Matn Situation 'Under Control'

NC3010135590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Well-informed sources have disclosed that the groundless campaign against excesses in upper and lower al-Matn is an attempt to obstruct government moves to implement the Greater Beirut Plan. The campaign, the sources said, is motivated by a desire to blackmail and outmaneuver the government.

Meanwhile, security sources in the Lebanese Army have said that the security situtation is under control in upper and lower al-Matn. The sources said that no excesses are being perpetrated and that the Lebanese and Syrian Army forces have adopted strong measures to protect the lives and property of the al-Matn population.

Syrians Take Over Hizballah Positions in Beirut

JN2710155190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Army units, supported by Syrian Arab forces, are continuing to remove roadblocks and rubble barricades along the contact lines between the two parts of the Lebanese capital. The Voice of the Mountain radio said that the removal of the barricades along the line extending from al-Tayyuni to al-Shuwayfat had been completed.

Meanwhile, Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon have taken control of positions belonging to Hizballah in the southern suburb of Beirut and are now consolidating their positions.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon, has asserted that the coming few days will witness large-scale political detente as a harbinger of comprehensive national reconciliation and the proclamation of the peace process. In a press statement, al-Amin said that the basic demand today is represented by political and practical moves to impose state authority, beginning in Beirut and spreading in all directions. He said this would require political harmony among all sides, a harmony that seems to be present among all of them without exception.

For his part, Lebanese Minister Nabih Birri considers that a final solution to the Lebanese crisis depends on greater Beirut. as for the other formalities, such as the government's formation and other issues, these, he said, can be accomplished while the process of reconciliation is going on. Birri emphasized the need to impose legitimate control all of Lebanon.

More on Syrian Deployment in South Beirut

NC2710215190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Work was undertaken today to remove the ramparts from the Nahr al-Kalb tunnel so that it can be opened in both directions; this is after it was opened in one direction yesterday. The tunnel was closed again at 1600 today, three hours after it was reopened to traffic, to facilitate the work of telephone and electricity repair teams. The tunnel is expected to be reopened in both directions on Monday [29 October] morning.

The reopening of the crossings coincides with the Lebanese Forces' reduction of its military presence along the traditional combat lines in al-Ashrafiyah. Moreover, the Syrian Arab troops were deployed in most neighborhoods in the southern suburb, where Hizballah is stationed.

Gunmen Shoot Magazine's Deputy Managing Director

NC2910213790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Unidentified gunmen riding in a Peugeot 504 opened fire at George Dallal, deputy managing director of AL-SHIRA' magazine, this evening. Dallal, who was shot in the chest, was immediately taken to the American University Hospital. A security source said the incident took place near the Arab Bank on al-Maqdisi street. The gunmen managed to escape toward al-Hamra' street, according to the source.

Hubayqah Men Kidnap Three in Eastern Area

NC3010110290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Security in the two al-Matn areas remains at the forefront until an end is put to the still-occurring excesses.

Among the acts of molestation, men belonging to Hubayqah [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] have raided the home of an al-Bawshariyah resident of the Gabriel family and kidnapped citizens Tony Faysal and Carlos Himsi, who were visiting the Gabriel family. The Hubayqah men also tried to kidnap Ms. Magie Gabriel, daughter of the house. The Hubayqah group also kidnapped citizen Antoine Yusuf Francis from his home in al-Ruwaysat in al-Judaydah District.

Meanwhile, the fate of citizens Bassam and Ilyas 'Awad, who were kidnapped earlier in 'Awkar, remains unknown.

Fadlallah Calls for 'Jihad' Against 'Zionists'

LD2710134190 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct. 27, IRNA—A prominent Lebanese allama [scholar] here Friday [26 October] encouraged Muslim Palestinians to embark on a military jihad against the Zionist enemy.

Friday prayer leader of Imam Reza (AS) Mosque in southern Beirut, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah noted that the U.S. was convinced that Iraq would never launch an attack against Israel.

But, he stressed, however, the U.S. would continue its support for the Zionists under the pretext of crisis in the Persian Gulf and of a possible Iraqi attack on Israel. Therefore, Fadlallah added, the way would be paved for the Zionists to suppress Palestinian uprising and impose an American-Israeli style peace on the region .

He stressed that the U.S. was against complete settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

Fadlallah also pointed to reports received from ranking diplomatic sources in Lebanon on the presence of Zionist officers in some parts of Lebanon and warned the people against it.

Finance Minister on Seizure of 'Awn Deposits

NC2610153190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil has stated that the government has so far regained $22 million and 2.6 billion Lebanese pounds which had been deposited in six banks in the name of 'Awn. He said: Three banks suspected of holding deposits in the name of 'Awn, Ma'luf, and Abu-Jamrah have use the bank secrecy law as a pretext. We have, however, referred these banks to the supreme banking committee.

Al-Asad Meets With Kuwaiti Amir's Envoy

JN2910165390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Nasir Sabah al- Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, personal envoy of the Kuwaiti amir, at 1130 today. The meeting was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the situation in the Gulf.

PNF Leaders To Discuss International Situation

JN2910091190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Oct (SANA)—In an interview with a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, deputy chairman of the Progressive National Front [PNF], said that the leadership of the PNF will soon meet to discuss the Arab and international situations and the new developments in them.

Commentary Views French Role in Lebanon

JN2910184890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the world community is following with great optimism the positive steps taken in Lebanon and the legitimate government's efforts to establish the authority of the state, end shows of force, dissolve militias, and entrench national accord as the way to build a free, democratic, and cohesive society. Even the adversaries of the legitimate government, who supported rebellion and partition, cannot now but admit that the joint Lebanese-Syrian operation that put an end to 'Awn placed Lebanon on the road of hope and solution and opened several doors for the country.

Small Lebanon has been the target of a big and well-devised Zionist conspiracy. Foreign hands have been toying with its resources, and its citizens have ready access to arms. Scores of militias have been formed and the army was divided, with part of it rebelling against the legitimate authority. Such a small country cannot face all these serious problems on its own, especially since the dimensions of the conspiracy against its existence and unity go beyond its border, touching the security of Syria and the region.

Syria, therefore, had no alternative other than supporting Lebanon to end the rebellion and partition and remove the obstacles dividing the sons of the capital. The assistance that Syria provided to the Lebanese Army is a response to the call of brotherhood and pan-Arab duty, and a response to the al-Ta'if document, which has become Lebanon's constitution. The joint Lebanese-Syrian operation was so swift and decisive that it took all parties involved in the conspiracy against Lebanon's Arabism by surprise. These parties shed tears over the downfall of 'Awn and the collapse of Lebanon's independence, as they claim. Among these are Israel and certain French circles with influence in the government.

It is natural for Israel to express outrage and concern. Its designs, which cost it hundreds of millions of dollars—if not billions—have collapsed. These had sought to tear Lebanon apart and start fires in the country to impose a shameful peace, divide it into statelets, and slice off its southern part as a prelude to future annexation. But for the first time in the history of the Lebanese crisis, we see unanimity on all sides to rally around the legitimate authority. Militia leaders, indeed, are expressing readiness to dissolve their armed organizations and join civilian political life. And for the first time since the Lebanese crisis erupted, Lebanon looks like it is really heading toward a true national reconciliation and actual stability.

Ordinary observers are puzzled at the policies of France, which has always claimed that it supported not only Lebanon's independence and sovereignty but also the current legitimate government to which the French ambassador presented his credentials. President al-Hirawi and the government of national reconciliation are the last hope for Lebanon and the Lebanese. They showed enough shrewdness, wisdom, and courage in dealing with the crisis to win the admiration and appreciation of all. How can France support 'Awn, who rebelled against the authority of al-Hirawi and the government of national reconciliation, and, at the same time, claim that it is concerned about the independence of Lebanon and that it recognizes the legitimate Lebanese Government?

The whole world has been seized by a series of important changes. People are eager for justice, freedom, and equality. The Lebanese people have been struggling for 16 years to secure minimum justice, freedom, and equality. The al-Ta'if agreement reflected almost unanimous Lebanese determination to achieve these legitimate ambitions, especially that the Lebanese crisis cannot be resolved without justice among the sons of the one country and equal constitutional rights and duties for all. The independence of any country is not merely a word to utter; it is based on the accord and solidarity of its people.

Where has France stood vis-a-vis-all this? After hesitation, it claimed that it supported the al-Ta'if accord. But it strongly backed those who rebelled against the legitimate authority and the al-Ta'if accord. In so doing, it met with Israel and its designs to tear Lebanon apart. Was this meeting coincidental? We do not think so, because Zionism has its symbols within the French Government itself. These symbols affect many decisions and positions, and they feed the old colonialist, hostile feelings against Syria and the Arab nation.

Circles within the French Government have recently persisted in distorting the joint Lebanese-Syrian operation. They have been crying for Lebanon's independence

and dealing with the legitimate authority and the reconciliation government as though time moved back to the forties, when the French ruler had the power to dismiss governments and appoint others. These circles were annoyed with the splendid results of the operation to achieve Lebanon's unity and bolster Lebanese-Syrian cooperation, especially since they worked hard to cancel Syria's pan-Arab role. But the result was such that Syria's role has grown and the French role has collapsed. At any rate, we do not think that France is entitled to interfere in the affairs of Lebanon and the region, especially that the French role has for long been antagonistic toward the Lebanese's ambitions for justice and equality.

Iraq 'Aware' Kuwait Occupation Not To Last

JN2910160390 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Oct 90 p 8

[From "Behind the News" column: "Iraqi Intransigence ... Whereto?" by 'Izz-al-Din al-Darwish]

[Text] Until now there are no indications of a possible Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait and an end to its occupation in compliance with the Arab summit and UN Security Council resolutions. This will bring many dangers to the Gulf which seems to be on the verge of an explosion as a result of the increasing military buildup capable of directing events toward the military option that the international community is still working rapidly to avoid.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is a flagrant violation of international laws since it is an act of aggression and the complete elimination of an independent and sovereign state that is a member of the United Nations and all other Arab and international bodies and organizations. This has obliged the Arab League and the United Nations to take the necessary measures to end this occupation and eliminate its direct and indirect effects, first through peaceful means if possible. If not, then it is necessary to resort to other means that have been effective in such historically rare situations of aggression, especially between two sisterly states like Iraq and Kuwait.

The international community, regardless of the reasons, cannot stand by and watch such aggressive practices where the strong engulf the weak in an outmoded law of the jungle, especially since Kuwait has always been a peaceful state.

Like the international community, the Arabs, represented in their League, cannot remain silent to the Iraqi Government's action in light of its aggressive nature, violation of the Arab League charters, and serious reflection on Arab relations, Arab solidarity, and all that which falls within the framework of Arab unity in its various forms.

In addition, the Iraqi Government's action has caused great damage to the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab efforts to end the Israeli aggression, liberate the occupied land, and regain the Palestinian people's right to return and establish their independent state.

In accordance with all standards, considerations, and laws enforced at the Arab and international levels, it is impossible to legitimize the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and ignore it regardless of its pretext. Eventually, this occupation must end and the legitimate government and the sovereignty of Kuwait must be restored.

The best solution for Iraq and the Arabs in this case is through an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait with no preconditions. Afterward, the side issues must be discussed between the two countries through political channels. If the Iraqi Government were to continue its intransigence and persist on violating international laws and norms and consequently continue to occupy Kuwait, then this would mean a military confrontation between Iraq and the entire world. Such a confrontation will not be in the interest of Iraq, either militarily or politically.

No matter what the Iraqi Government propagates or justifies and no matter how intransigent it is, it is aware that its occupation of Kuwait will not last and that a normal situation will eventually be restored.

Press Blasts U.S., France on Regional Policies

JN2810084190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Arab Nation and the Need To Examine the Real Danger," AL-BA'TH says: The manifold support the United States is extending to Israel is a message to the Arabs that Washington will pursue its policy which is biased toward Israel and against their basic cause, the cause of the people of Palestine.

AL-BA'TH explains that the United States is unambiguously pursuing a delusive policy concerning the Arab-Zionist conflict in an exposed attempt to shuffle cards in the region so as to render a service to Israel, thinking that what has happened in the Gulf could provide it with the opportunity to accomplish its objectives.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although it is true that Iraq has made a mortal mistake by creating an Arab-Arab crisis and that it is a pressing and necessary task to put things right and go back on the mistake, yet the United States should know that the delusive policy will do it no good and that its unlimited support for Israel can never serve the trends of peace which were approved by the international community. The paper stresses that this support will encourage Israel to commit further aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arabs and their land.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Once again, we underscore what was said by the responsible source that Washington's linking its decisions on the unlimited support for Israel with the Iraqi position on Kuwait lacks convincing

evidence and aims to delude and distract the attention of the world in general, and the Arab nation in particular, from the dangerous intentions harbored by Israel and the United States for us.

All Arabs are clearly required today to be more vigilant and cautious, and to contemplate and examine events so that all of us can see the directions of danger and define the appropriate action. [passage omitted]

In its "Behind the News" column, TISHRIN says: At a time when the Lebanese legitimate government is pursuing serious action to establish the unity of the country and the authority of the state, terminate all abnormal phenomena, and entrench national accord; and at a time when militia and party leaders have expressed readiness to respond to the endeavors of the legitimate government which aim at establishing greater Beirut and controlling the ports and facilities, some spiteful French sides have continued their campaign against the great achievement which was effected through the liquidation of the hotbed of rebellion and partition.

TISHRIN adds: We do not find this position strange given that Zionist factions control the official and nonofficial French media and nurture the old colonialist trends of some French sides, in addition to nurturing their well-known malice against the Arabs.

TISHRIN concludes: This suspicious action can never win the support of any Lebanese because all the Lebanese have approved national accord and are about to take real steps that would uproot evil and sedition forever.

Press Comments on Need To Face 'Real Enemy'

JN3010093090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "U.S. Aid to Israel and Peace Talk," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: We have always said and we still say that he who extends abundant arms and funds to Israel does not want a just end to the Zionist-Arab conflict nor does he seek to achieve peace in the region. This is because justice cannot be achieved when one party enjoys superiority over another in any conflict, and peace cannot be achieved through the threat of arms unless what is sought is capitulation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Perhaps the U.S. military and financial aid that has recently been extended to Israel would not have surprised us had there not been daily U.S. clamor in the world about peace and the region's need for stability and security, and had there not been, since the beginning of this decade, this comprehensive approach in the international arena to settle regional conflicts through peaceful means and to reduce the spread of mass destruction weapons in the hotbeds of tension in our world.

AL-BA'TH says: How can the United States be concerned about peace while, in the smoke of the Gulf crisis, it is pushing the Israelis toward further intransigence and arrogance, which have always led them to making decisions that drowned the region in wars and blood?

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Justice cannot be allowed two faces regardless of the claims of its legislators, and peace cannot prevail so long as there are oppressors and oppressed. In light of this, we, the Arabs need to examine what is taking place around us and to pay serious attention to our real enemy, which is stockpiling U.S. arms in its depots, benefiting from our secondary conflicts.

On the same subject and under the headline "Zionist Terrorism and U.S. Support," the newspaper TISHRIN says: What can prevent Israel from escalating its measures to quell the intifadah when it always finds some sides to support its aggression and reward it for its repressive and terrorist acts? Israel does not pay any attention to the timid denunciations that are sometimes expressed by international circles. Moreover, it cares less about international and UN resolutions and refuses to implement or abide by them on various pretexts that convince no one other than the U.S. Administration.

TISHRIN adds: Israel seeks to reinforce its control and authority over the territories that were occupied after 1967, and to force the Arabs to leave their land in order to absorb the Jews arriving from the USSR and various parts of the world to establish its greater state, exploiting the world's preoccupation with the Gulf crisis, the unlimited U.S. support, and the general Arab weakness around it that is escalating as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Palestinian people and their cause must receive comprehensive Arab support, on all levels, more than at any time in the past.

Afghanistan

Soviet Journalists Interview Najibullah

LD2910094390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, BAKHTAR, Oct 28—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] received today a journalist team of the USSR for an interview at the presidential headquarters, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent.

President Najibullah, when Gulam Sarwar Yurish, head of the presidential press dept and B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador, extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the USSR Embassy to Kabul were also present, talked on the country's political and military situation. [sentence as received]

The Afghan president stressed on the continuation of the friendly relations existed between the RA-USSR as well as expansion of friendly relations and good-neighbourliness between the peoples and governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the interest of the two countrys peoples and peace and stability in the region. He said the relations will be further consolidated and expanded by every passing day.

While touching on the release of Soviet prisoners of war (POWs), the Afghan president stressed on the measures and continued strivings of the Republic of Afghanistan for the release of the Soviet POWs at the custody of the Afghan opposition. He stated that the RA state's efforts in the field, by utilising all means and possibilities, will continue.

Then a number of journalists raised their questions which were replied by the president as well.

Reports View Ongoing Military Operations

Kabul, Lowgar Operations

LD2910120590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 28, BAKHTAR—Thirty-eight extremists were smashed and thirteen others wounded today by strikes of the Kabul garrison contingents in Paghman District, 24 km west of Kabul today.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports, as a result of these strikes a large amount of the enemies arms and munitions were destroyed.

Besides, about 25 extremists of the Gulbuddin band were killed by air and artillery strikes of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on the gathering spots of the extremists in Lowgar Province recently.

During these strikes, Safi, one of the ringleaders of the Gulbuddin extremist groupings was also killed.

In recent weeks the Gulbuddin, Sayyaf extremist groupings faced with heavy blows of the government Armed Forces and sustained heavy moral and material losses. The extremists lost over 1,100 men during that time.

Besides the detachments of the Kabul garrison today by conducting a mopping up operations against the extremist elements in the Wakhjan region of Lowgar Province discovered a large amount of assorted weapons.

The confiscated arms are consisted by 37 missiles, 110 mortar shells, 22 rocket launchers, 70 cartridges of Dashaka, and Kalashnikov bullets, 16 anti-vehicle and anti-personnel mines and a large amount of light weaponaries.

Kabul Garrison Mopping-Up

LD2910172590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces in the General Command of Kabul garrison today continued their mopping-up operations southward.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of today's operations 10 surface-to-surface U.S. Sakr missiles, 110 rocket launcher shells, 77 mortar shells, and 23 cases of Dashaka shells were captured.

The units and companies have successfully continued their mopping-up operations southward with high combat morale and patriotic feelings.

Zabol Province Operations

LD3010082390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0444 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 29, BAKHTAR—The contingents of the armed forces of the country deployed in Zabol province today by inflicting heavy artillery blows on extremist elements, pushed them back in the northern and northeastern directions of Qalat city, centre of that province, reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

As a result of these blows, 50 extremists were killed and a large amount of their assorted weapons, including 3 reactive sets, 5 Ziko-1, one Dashaka and two vehicles loaded with munitions were destroyed.

According to another report the different detachments of the Afghan Army stationed in Qandahar province today carried out mopping up operations in Maywand district of that province.

During these operations, 13 extremists along with Sardar Muhammad a ringleader of the Wahabi Sayaf group were killed and 11 others injured.

Meanwhile, an amount of assorted weapons of the extremists including a tank, a 82mm cannon, and a vehicle loaded with ammunition were also seized.

According to another report, four persons of the extremist groups were captured on Oct. 27 following an ambush operation carried by the personnel of the state security in Laghman province.

BAKHTAR military correspondent reports, two arms and a quantity of armament were also seized while capturing the culprits red-handed.

Bangladesh

Bomb Blasts in Dhaka; Opposition Blockade

BK2610164690 Hong Kong AFP in English
1629 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP)—Several bomb blasts rocked the Bangladesh capital Friday seven hours ahead of a planned opposition road and railway blockade, local residents and witnesses said.

The blast in Motijheel, Chankhar Pool, Kalabagan and several other areas sent panicked people indoors, they said, adding that the bombs were homemade.

Unconfirmed reports said one bomb was set off near the residence of Prime Minister Khazi Zafar Ahmed, who is now abroad.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, and police said they had no reports of the blasts so far.

Government employees were seen preparing to stay overnight in their offices or at nearby hotels to avoid commuting Saturday.

The opposition was preparing to enforce a nationwide blockade of roads and railways Saturday as part of its ongoing campaign to oust Bangladesh President Mohammad Ershad.

In separate rallies here Friday, top opposition leaders reiterated their call to the public to make the blockade a success.

They have been campaigning for the last eight years for Mr. Ershad's resignation and for free and fair elections under a neutral interim government.

They insist that fair polls would not be possible under Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and was elected president in 1986.

The latest round of agitation started October 10.

Security Heightened

BK2710040690 Hong Kong AFP in English
0315 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 27 (AFP)—A massive security blanket was thrown up here Saturday as the opposition was blocking railways and roads across Bangladesh as part of their campaign to oust President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Paramilitary forces and riot police armed with automatic weapons and rubber bullets patrolled the seemingly deserted capital in lorries and were deployed at key points and installations.

Observers said the deployment of police forces was the largest in recent months. It followed bomb blasts late Friday in several areas, including one near the prime minister's home here.

Shops were shuttered and most offices closed in the usually busy Motijheel business district. Some offices were operating with skeleton staff who stayed overnight in their offices to avoid commuting Saturday.

Except for a few pedal-driven trishaws there were no vehicles on the roads here Saturday. Opposition leaders have called on the public to make Dhaka "a city of blockade."

At the country's central Kamalapur railway station, paramilitary Bangladesh rifles and ansars [paramilitary forces] were guarding stranded trains. A commanding officer at the station prevented an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer from taking pictures.

"Go, go and write anything you want, but you cannot take our picture," the lieutenant said.

A duty railway official said several trains arrived in the morning and some were waiting to depart, but one passenger heading for Mymensingh district in the north complained that it had been postponed.

Authoritative sources had earlier said that the government has decided not to operate any trains as well as state-run buses during the blockade.

Opposition sources said intially 11 points in and around Dhaka were selected for the blockade but that number could increase.

In the southeastern port city of Chittagong, some 3,000 opposition activists enforced a partial blockade in front of the railway station and on highways linking Chittagong with Dhaka and Rangamati, residents said by telephone.

In Khulna district, in the southwest, residents said few trishaws were operating and several shops were open.

Armed police were patrolling the major streets of the two cities.

Meanwhile, the three major political alliances late Friday discussed Saturday's campaign program and said "it will be peaceful unless the government pushes us to a state of confrontation."

Sources said police have detained unspecified numbers of activists in the city since early Friday.

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from across the country on the eve of the blockade. Several bombs went off in the capital, with one exploding near the residence of Prime Minister Qazi Zafar Ahmed, who is now abroad.

The bombers fled through a park in front of the premier's residence under the cover of darkness, press reports said here saturday.

In nearby river port town of Narayanganj, a group of opposition activists set abalze four private buses and damaged several others, newspapers said quoting police sources.

The major opposition alliances are an seven-party group led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, an eight-party group headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, and the left leaning five-party grouping of Nirmal Sen.

The opposition have been campaigning for the last eight years for Mr. Ershad's resignation and for free and fair elections under a neutral interim government.

They insist that fair polls are not possible under Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and was elected president in 1986.

The latest round of agitation, which started October 10, has so far claimed 10 lives, according to unofficial estimates. Officially six have died.

Opposition Claims Victory

BK2710163890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1624 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 27 (AFP)—Dhaka was a virtual ghost town Saturday and Bangladesh's main port was isolated as opposition groups claimed victory in their road and rail blockade to press demands for a new government.

The blockade disrupted transportation throughout Bangladesh, particularly in Dhaka and the southeastern port city of Chittagong, where protestors cut off the main road and rail entrances to the port, officials said.

In a surprise move, the two usually fractious main opposition alliances took up positions side by side in the Mohakhali area. The third opposition alliance gathered at the Maghbazar intersection.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chief Khaleda Zia said at the Mouchak crossing that the blockade showed people had "totally rejected Ershad... He should resign if he has any shame."

She said the government and the country had been brought to a "total standstill" and the campaign was headed for success.

At the Mohakhali intersection, Salam Talukder, secretary-general of the BNP, which heads the seven-party alliance said: "If this exercise continues, the target will be achieved."

A top leader of the Awami League (AL), which leads the eight-party alliance, M.A. Jalil said: "It is clear the political parties are united in their demand for a new government without Ershad."

The main opposition alliances are a seven-party group led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, an eight-party group headed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, and the left-leaning five-party grouping of Nirmal Sen.

Opposition leaders had called on the public to make Dhaka "a city of blockade" as part of their campaign to oust Mr. Ershad.

At a post-blockade rally Sheikh Hasina said people have expresssed their no-confidence against Ershad and a "final shock" was needed to topple him. She did not elaborate.

Begum Zia at a separate rally claimed Mr. Ershad had been confined to his room and added: "I suggest he should leave the country or face dire consequences like the shah of Iran."

Both opposition leaders announced almost identical programs of rallies and demonstrations to start Monday and ending with a nationwide dawm-to-dusk strike November 10.

Authorities blanketed Dhaka with armed security forces Saturday to prevent violence but they looked helpless in the face of sporadic bomb blasts in different parts of the city.

Activists claiming Mr. Ershad had resigned moved into upmarket Dhanmondi District, torched seven cars of the Ganashathya Pharmaceutical Company (GPC) and burned its printing press.

The activists, mainly students, also attacked the computer office of one of the country's largest business houses—the Bangladesh Export Import Company (Bexim co) and set off home-made bombs. Shops were shuttered and most offices closed in the usually busy Motijheel business district.

At the country's central Kamalapur railway station here, demonstrators blocked main rail lines and about 150 activists demonstrated at the Khilgoan railway level crossing near the central station, witnesses said.

Another 100 protestors belonging to the student wing of the rightist Jamaat-i-Islami Party blocked the intersection of a street leading to the presidential palace and Motijheel district.

Authoritative sources had earlier said the government had decided not to operate any trains or state-run buses during the blockade.

Security measures were also tight in Chittagong, which was virtually paralysed, residents said. Some 3,000 opposition activists took up positions at 14 major intersections.

Roads were empty of traffic, railway stations were without trains and the port was almost cut off, local officials said.

Residents said the highways linking Chittagong with Dhaka and Rangamati were also blocked.

Armed police patrolled the major streets of Chittagong and of Khulna District, in the southwest, which was also affected, residents said.

In western Rajshahi City, a resident said by telephone that BDR and armed police guarded the main railway

station as some 500 demonstrators blocked the city's main highway linking the city with the capital. The blockade even gripped the southern railway and district town of Rajbari, where all trains were suspended and roads were deserted.

The opposition has been campaigning for the last eight years for Mr. Ershad's resignation and for free and fair elections under a neutral interim government. They insist that fair polls are not possible under Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and was elected president in 1986.

The latest round of agitation, which started October 10, has so far claimed 10 lives, according to unofficial estimates. Officially six have died.

Opposition Arrests

BK2910083990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 29 Oct 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 29 (AFP)—The Bangladesh Government's invoking of a tough law to detain an opposition leader was being viewed here Monday by analysts and political leaders as a "nervous move" by authorities to check growing political unrest.

A senior political commentator said in an interview that the weekend arrest was "without proper basis" and criticized it as a "nervous move by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government to warn other opposition leaders."

Pankaj Bhattacharya, 42, general-secretary of the National Awami Party (NAP), was arrested Sunday and charged with violence and arson. A bail petition on his behalf was also rejected by a Dhaka court.

He was ordered to spend the next 120 days in jail under the 1974 Special Powers Act, which ironically the government said it would soon repeal.

Vice President Moudud Ahmed had announced last month that the president had decided to repeal the controversial law which permits detention without trial and the banning of newspapers.

The law has been dubbed a "black law" by opposition leaders and journalists.

"Pray my stay in jail is comfortable and that the arrest ends autocratic rule in the country," Mr. Bhattacharya told supporters as he was led to a waiting vehicle.

His party president, Muzzafar Ahmed, speaking from an undisclosed location, said by telephone that the arrest did not fall into the "rule of the game, as he was charged also for theft."

He lashed out at the government, saying "crazy people make stupid mistakes, especially when they are nervous."

On Saturday, after a 10-hour campaign to block roads and railways across Bangladesh brought the country to a standstill, the opposition claimed a complete victory over Mr. Ershad.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the opposition Awami League told a rally later that the people had expressed their repudiation of Mr. Ershad and called on him to quit.

Despite tight security, scores of homemade bombs were set off and at least 12 cars were either torched or damaged. Air and river transport services were disrupted, with train and road transport completely grounded.

The opposition has been campaigning for Mr. Ershad's resignation and for free and fair elections under a neutral interim government.

They insist fair polls are not possible under Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 military coup and was elected president in 1986.

But the president, for the second time in recent months, called sunday on the opposition to shun the path of violence and take part in talks to pave the way for elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bhattacharya's arrest has sent opposition leaders into frantic consultations on whether or not they should take their struggle underground.

The daily MILLAT newspaper said Monday that security forces had launched a search and arrest operation to quell the mounting anti-government unrest.

Sources said some leaders, including top student activists, have already gone underground to avoid arrests.

A source at the Home (Interior) Ministry, when asked to comment on the arrest and the newspaper report, said, "I think there will be more arrests, the trend is going that way."

Reliable sources said homes of several middle-ranking opposition leaders had been searched, including that of Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convenor of the Janata Mukti Party (Peoples' Freedom Party).

Analysts said they believed Mr. Bhattacharya had been arrested mainly because of a scathing attack he launched on the president and his family during a speech at a weekend demonstration.

Party sources said he was at least 10 kilometers (six miles) away from Saturday's incidents of arson and violence.

India

Conflict Continues on Temple; Violence Erupts

Government Asked To Quit

BK2910141390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded the resignation of the government charging it of trying to communalize the Ayodhya temple issue. In a letter to the prime minister, the party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, accused the governemnt of ill-treating the kar sevaks [voluntary workers to build the temple], putting them in jail and imposing restrictions on those on their way to Ayodhya for kar seva. He demanded lifting of all restrictions for normalcy to return.

BJP General Secretary Arrested

BK2910165490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP general secretary, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, along with eight other MP's [members of parliament] and two MLA's [members of Legislative Assembly] and a large number of Kar Sevaks [voluntary workers to build the temple] were arrested at Delhi-Ghaziabad border this afternoon while proceeding to Ayodhya for Kar Seva.

BJP Leader Arrested

BK3010011790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 30 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, was arrested last night when he came out of the plane at the Amausi airport in Lucknow. Later, he was taken to Shaharwa in Saharanpur District.

Uttar Pradesh Curfew

BK2910134490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed this afternoon in 10 police station areas of Lucknow city in view of the prevailing tense situation. Army staged a flag march in some areas. Additional police force has been deployed to maintain law and order. Several activists have been arrested for defying prohibitory order.

An indefinite curfew was also clamped in Raj Duara locality of Rampur District last night following violent clashes. According to the state home secretary, three persons, including the additional district judge, Mr. L.K. Upadhyay, were killed in cross-firing and stone throwing between two groups. The situation in the town is stated to be tense but under control. Army was called out in the old city area of Allahabad after incidents of slogan shouting and brick batting this afternoon. The police resorted to lathi [baton] charge to control the situation. Many people, including policemen, were injured in the incident.

The twin cities of Ayodhya and Faizabad remained peaceful. Curfew was relaxed for three hours in Ayodhya from 0400 this morning. Meanwhile, the army staged a flag march in 22 sensitive areas of the station [as heard] in order to instill confidence in the people.

Andhra Pradesh Curfew

BK2910140590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a 36-hour curfew was imposed in Hyderabad from 1800 [1230 GMT] this evening and the army asked to stand by, following stray incidents of stabbing. The army today staged a flag march to instill confidence among the people.

Hindu Leader in Ayodhya

BK2910133090 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 29 Oct 90

["Newsreel" Program]

[Text] There have been sporadic outbreaks of violence in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh the day before Hindu activists plan to start building a temple on the disputed religious site in the town of Ayodhya. The site is already occupied by a mosque. But Hindus say it marks the birthplace of their god, Lord Ram. Security is being tightened still further around the town. Our correspondent, Christopher Morris, reports from the state capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow:

[Begin recording] Hundreds of thousands of Hindus from all over India have been converging on Ayodhya during the past week. Many of them have been arrested, nearly 100,000 in Uttar Pradesh alone, where the authorities fear widespread communal violence if the construction of the temple goes ahead. In Lucknow today, angry crowds clashed with police outside the state parliament house and tear gas was used to disperse them. Elsewhere in the city, one person was killed and two more stabbed, while in Rampur a curfew has been declared and the Army called out. In Ayodhya itself, the curfew which was lifted for three hours this morning has now been reimposed and tens of thousands of troops and police are ringing the area. But the statement issued by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] or World Hindu Congress, one of the organizations which have been leading demand for the building of the temple, said its general secretary has managed to slip into the town of Faizabad adjoining Ayodhya despite the intense security. The VHP statement says he will enter Ayodhya tomorrow to begin work on the temple and it quotes him as saying that the government's attempts to prevent volunteers reaching the disputed site amounts to a murder of democracy.

Meanwhile, in Punjab, a man has committed suicide by taking poison in protest against the government's refusal

to allow construction of the temple to proceed. India has seen a rush of suicides in recent weeks in protest against plans to reserve higher quotas of jobs for members of the lower castes. But the incident in Punjab today is the first suicide associated with the Ayodhya controversy. [end recording].

BJP Comments on Issue

BK3010084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says that the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has wrongly tried to link the issue of construction of the Shri Ram Temple at Ayodhya and the change in the leadership of the Janata Dal parliamentary party. Commenting on the prime minister's offer to step down if the BJP and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] agree to abide by the court's verdict, the BJP secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said today that his party has never asked for a change of leadership in the Janata Dal. Mr. Mathur reiterated his party's stand that the Ram Janmabhoomi issue is beyond the purview of the court.

Thousands Pushed From Site

BK3010045290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the administration has taken all necessary steps to maintain law and order in view of the Kar Seva [voluntary service to build temple] at Ayodhya today. The army staged a flag march in some areas yesterday to instill confidence among the people. A special squad of the National Security Guards has been deployed in and around the disputed site at Ayodhya.

Nearly 80,000 people have been rounded up so far as a precautionary measure. The situation in Faizabad and Ayodhya has been officially described as peaceful. Over 100 people, mostly locals, were arrested this morning. Strict vigil is being maintained to prevent elements who are likely to create trouble by entering Ayodhya. Some Kar Sevaks [voluntary workers to build temple] and sadhus [saints], while being arrested last night, damaged a few vehicles.

A message just received says that 5,000-10,000 people have gathered at the Sarju Bridge for entering Ayodhya. They have been pushed back successfully by the police. Some people got minor injuries when police resorted to a mild lathi [baton] charge to deal with the situation.

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew was imposed in Mathura City and some areas under nine police stations of Varanasi following violent clashes last night. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent that one person was killed in Mathura when police resorted to firing to control a mob trying to take out a procession defying prohibitory orders. Additional police force has been deployed and a strict vigil is being maintained over the situation. Preventive arrests in apprehension of breach of peace are continuing in the state. The prime minister is in touch with the state chief minister and the union cabinet committee on political affairs is closely monitoring the situation in Uttar Pradesh.

In Kanpur, the district administration has ordered the closure of all central and state government offices, factories, shops and business establishments including cinema houses today. The curfew has been imposed in some areas there following clashes between police and Kar Sevaks. An indefinite curfew was also imposed in some areas of Allahabad, Lucknow and Rampur following violent incidents. Security has been tightened in the capital as a precautionary measure.

Security Tightened

BK3010080790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the proposed kar seva [voluntary service] for the construction of the Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, which was scheduled this morning, did not take place. Reports from Ayodhya say due to heavy security arrangements, no kar sevak [volunteer] could reach near the disputed place and the status quo as per the high court order was maintained. Quoting official sources AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent Muni Lal reports that nearly 20,000 kar sevaks have gathered near the the Saryu bridge to force their entry into the disputed place to undertake parikrama [Hindu religious rite].

Meanwhile, the situation continues to be peaceful in the curfew- bound areas of Lucknow, Rampur, and Mathura, Varanasi, and Allahabad. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere since the imposition of the curfew yesterday. Patrolling by security forces have been intensified in these areas. The army has been alerted to meet any eventuality. Army jawans [soldiers] have been deployed in Allahabad to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order. All government offices and banks in Lucknow are closed today.

In Gujarat, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Kalupur and Daryapur police station areas in Ahmedabad and Vadi and Panigapar, Karolibagh and the City police stations in Baroda following group clashes during the rasta roko andolan [blockade road agitation] today.

In Karanataka, the law and order situation is under control. According to the police no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state.

Temple Stormed; Six Dead

BK3010074990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Oct 30 (AFP)—Thousands of Hindus stormed a disputed religious site here Tuesday, defying police gunfire that left at least six people dead, officials and witnesses said.

The Hindus, armed with shovels and picks, started demolishing the 16th century Muslim mosque at the site, they said.

Local police chief C.P.N. Singh said at least six people were killed in police firing.

Witnesses said more than 10,000 Hindus had entered the shrine.

Several climbed up to the dome of the shrine, chased by security forces who picked them up and flung them 50 feet (15 metres) down, witnesses said.

Hindu activists were fighting savagely with security forces inside the 16th century shrine, which Hindu fundamentalists want to raze and replace with a temple to their Lord Rama.

Security Forces Retake Mosque

BK3010111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Oct 30 (AFP)—Indian security forces retook a disputed Muslim mosque here Tuesday, driving out Hindus who occupied it in defiance of paramilitary gunfire that left six people dead, officials and witnesses said.

Paramilitary forces armed with fixed-bayonet rifles chased away thousands of Hindus who barged into the heavily guarded shrine Tuesday in response to fundamentalist calls to raze it and build a temple, they said.

The shrine was cordoned off to prevent new Hindu attempts to take over the site.

An Indian Government spokesman announced in New Delhi that the disputed shrine was intact and no damage had been caused to it. He said the "intruders" had been driven out.

Local authorities here said an army takeover of the 16th-century mosque was likely because the police had failed to thwart the Hindus from entering the site which Moslems call Babri Masjid.

"Please leave this temple or you will get hurt," senior officials shouted, saying army soldiers were being flown in to guard the site—the scene of battles between hardline Hindus and police.

Military helicopters were seen hovering over the ramshackle shrine, the focus of a major Hindu revivalist drive.

Hindus who stormed the shrine punched holes in it in a symbolic gesture of defiance against the Moslem claims to the site.

Six people were killed when paramilitary troops opened fire to halt the hymn-chanting Hindu activists, who fought pitched battles with security forces inside the shrine.

A curfew in the town had collapsed as residents spilled out on to the streets and marched on the shrine.

Hindus believe that the mosque was built by Moghul Emperor Babar in India's early Islamic era after demolishing a temple to their revered Lord Rama, who is said to have been born in Ayodhya. Moslems dispute the account.

Hindu General Secretary Hurt

BK3010120190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In Ayodhya, at least one person was killed when police opened fire at kar sevaks [volunteers workers to build the temple] who tried to enter the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] complex this morning. Agency reports say the police resorted to firing when lathi [baton] charge and tear gas failed to disperse the volunteers. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] general secretary, Mr. Ashok Singhal, was among the 20 people injured in the lathi charge. All India Radio correspondent in Faizabad quotes official sources there as saying that some volunteers managed to enter the complex, but they were pushed back.

An official spokesman in New Delhi has been quoted as saying that the complex in Ayodhya has been cleared of the volunteers who had entered the place. The spokesman also said the original structure there is intact.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has said rumors are being spread by certain elements to create confusion among the people. He appealed to the people for restraint and calm.

BJP President Begins Fast

BK3010123290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, is on a 12-hour fast in Patna today in support of communal harmony.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, began a 24-hour fast today in protest against alleged repressive measures against the kar sevaks [volunteers to build a temple]

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. S. Bangarappa, has said that the situation throughout the state is peaceful today, barring one or two stray incidents. He said the law-and-order situation was reviewed at today's Cabinet meeting. He disclosed that the Army has been alerted as a precautionary measure.

Singh To Step Down If New Leader Elected

BK2910150490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said that any member can raise the issue of a change in the leadership of the parliamentary party at its meeting on the fourth of next month. He said it is the parliamentary party which is to decide the leadership issue. Mr.

Bommai said the party will remain united under any leader, and more so under Mr. V.P. Singh. Meanwhile, senior Janata Dal MP [member of parliament] and party general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, today resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that he is willing to step down if members of parliament belonging to the National Front elect a new leader. In an informal chat with newsmen in New Delhi this evening, Mr. V.P. Singh said that he wanted to submit his resignation from the prime ministership as soon as the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] withdrew its support. However, the Janata Dal and the National Front leadership asked him not to do so.

Singh To Step Down If BJP Abides by Court

BK3010034190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said he is prepared to step down if the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] abide by the court verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. He made these remarks in the context of the BJP's demand for a change in the leadership of the Janata Dal.

While, addressing a group of lawyers in New Delhi last evening, he said the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, and the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, had requested him not to resign after the BJP withdrew support to his government. He said now it is being made out that he wants to stick to the chair but in fact he has staked his government to uphold principles. He made it clear that the National Front parliamentary party is free to choose its new leader if it wishes to do so and he will not hesitate even for a minute to step down.

Singh Minister Offers To Resign as Party Head

BK3010150590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that if members of parliament of his party feel that a change in the leadership in Janata Dal will serve the larger national interest, he will be glad to step down. In a latter written to the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, today, Mr. V.P. Singh said that the main issues before us are the unity of the country and the upholding of secular credentials and democratic institutions.

Janata Dal General Secretary Resigns 29 Oct

BK2910141090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Senior Janata Dal MP [member of parliament], the party general secretary, Mr. Satya Prakash Malaviya, today resigned from the Rajya Sabha. He sent his resignation letter to the leader of the National Front parliamentary party and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, for forwarding it to the Rajya Sabha chairman, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma.

National Front Leadership Change Ruled Out

BK2710092190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, has described Mrs. Maneka Gandhi's criticism of the government's handling of the oil crisis as an act of disservice. He asserted that the government has done its best to handle the situation arising out of the Gulf crisis. He told the PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] that the question of change of leadership in the National Front government does not arise now.

'Terrorists,' 'Subversives' Killed in Kashmir

BK3010071490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, six persons, including five terrorists, were killed and the security forces arrested 15 subversives and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from them.

According to an official handout about 70 houses were destroyed in Anantnag on Saturday when fire broke out during an exchange of fire.

Punjab Violence Leaves 13 Dead; Arms Recovered

BK3010110190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] In Punjab, seven terrorists and four train passengers are among the 13 persons killed in separate incidents since last evening. According to the state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, five hard-core terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in Ludhiana District. He said these terrorists had earlier in the day shot dead a police constable. One of the killed terrorists has been identified as Ishwar Singh. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, five motorcycles and 70,000 rupees in cash were also recovered.

In another encounter in Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District, two terrorists were killed. In Ferozepore District, terrorists fired at the Punjab Mail on its way from Ferozepore to Bombay between Golewala and (Kashibeg) railway stations, killing four passengers and injuring five.

Students Die in Protest of Job Quota Policy

BK2810092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] Agency reports say three students immolated themselves in protest against the Mandal Commission recommendations [for reservation of jobs for people of lower castes]. In Haryana, a college student in Soneput

town succumbed to his injuries. Another girl student tried to commit suicide by swallowing poison at Bhiwani. Some sporadic incidents of stone throwing and damage to buses by antireservationists were also reported in Haryana.

In Madhya Pradesh, one student succumbed to burn injuries in a self-immolation bid at Shivpuri. Shops and business establishments observed hartal [strike] in the area as the news of the student's death spread.

In Punjab, a young college girl committed suicide by burning herself in Jullundur city last night, allegedly in protest against the Mandal Commission report. She died on the spot.

Iranian Parliament Official Arrives on Visit

BK2710101690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Dr. Raja'ie Khorasani, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a six-day visit. He is leading a parliamentary delegation. Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Khorasani said there is great scope for further expansion of the Indo-Iranian bilateral relations.

Holds Talks With Minister

BK2910132090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The chairman of foreign relations committee of the Iranian Majlis, Mr. Raja'ie Khorasani, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, this afternoon. They discussed matters of bilateral interest, especially economic relations. The two sides decided on further exchanges at parliamentary, cultural, academic, and other levels. They also discussed the regional situation, including the Gulf crisis.

IRNA Report

LD2910210390 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 29, IRNA—Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, the chairman of the Islamic Republic's Majlis Foreign Relations Committee, on Monday, met with Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma to discuss ways of strengthening Tehran-New Delhi relations.

The discussions covered the full range of bilateral relations with a special focus on economic cooperation and on the expansion of trade exchanges for mutual benefit.

According to the Indian Foreign Ministry the discussions were held "in the spirit of traditional friendship" and were marked with the "similarity of approach" at all levels.

Khorasani also had separate meetings Monday with India's Minister of External Affairs Inder Kumar Gujral, Lok Sabha (Lower House) Speaker Rabi Ray, Deputy Speaker Shiv Raj Patil, Railways Minister George Fernandes and the leader of Congress (I) Party former premier Rajiv Gandhi.

On Sunday, the Iranian official had discussed international and bilateral issues with the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Hari Kishore Singh.

Khorasani, heading a high level parliamentary delegation arrived here on Saturday last on a five day official visit.

He is scheduled to leave for Hyderabad on Tuesday on his way back to Tehran.

Commentary Views Pakistani Election Outcome

BK2710121290 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Commentary by S.K. Naiyer, All India Radio news commentator: "The Fall of Benazir Bhutto"]

[Text] The outcome of the elections in Pakistan speak of complete rout of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] headed by Benazir Bhutto and the alliance. Bagging of 105 out of 207 Muslim seats in the National Assembly by the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] shows a landslide victory against 45 seats won by the People's Democratic Alliance—PDA. The eight candidates from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, contesting as independents, usually support the ruling party. The four independents elected from Sindh were sponsored by IJI. The minorities who contest for 10 seats usually extend support to the ruling party.

The IJI will form a federal government on its own, but it may not herald the era of stability in Pakistani politics. In the 1988 elections, the PDA under Ms. Benazir Bhutto had won 93 seats vis-a-vis 45 seats won now. Ms. Bhutto has conceded her defeat to the massive rigging to doctor the results to keep her out of power. She has already announced a program of protest, though her party is not boycotting the polls to the four provincial assemblies. The IJI, by bagging 105 seats, has nearly doubled its tally of 54 seats won in 1988, eroding the PPP base in Punjab. Ms. Bhutto's party had captured 53 seats in that province two years ago as against 14 now. Even in Sindh, Ms. Bhutto's rivals have made a dent and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement has not only retained its following in urban regions of the province, but has won 15 seats to improve the tally. Perhaps the biggest upset was Ms. Bhutto's own defeat in Peshawar. She, however, won her Larkana seat as did her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto also in the home town. Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, now in jail, has won his Karachi seat.

There is a likelihood of rift between the acting caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and the president of the IJI, Nawaz Sharif, who is also tipped to be the new prime minister. Mr. Jatoi has warned that he would deal severely with anyone out to disturb peace. Besides the crackdown, which would be assisted by the Army, the

moves to have Ms. Bhutto disqualified from the membership of the house on the basis of various charges against her would be expedited.

One major feature of the verdict is both a matter of satisfaction and should be a matter of some concern to the IJI, and that is the overwhelming support it has received in Punjab. In fact, the result here appears to have been affected by a strong feeling that the province is to finally get a chance to elect the prime minister. Whether the IJI is willing to overthrow the tradition of having a prime minister from one of the smaller provinces, so as to give them a stake, will be known in a few days.

The victory represents not only the religious extremists but also the Army establishment, the combination of which has always been inimical to the growth of a genuine democracy in Pakistan. It is likely to prove all the more lethal now since its votaries are in a position to claim legitimacy of sorts after having gone through the motions of a popular test. The policy of General Zia-ul Haq perpetuating the Army hold on power from behind a civilian facade will be elevated as Pakistan's ruling ideology.

As far as Indo-Pakistan relations are concerned, the new power-combine in Islamabad can only be expected to further harden Pakistan's traditional anti-Indian stance. It can be recalled that President Ishaq Khan had dismissed Ms. Bhutto for corruption and for her alleged softness toward India. It will be logical for IJI-led government to go out of the way to reestablish its anti-Indian credentials. The need for India is for extreme caution on her part when another uncertain phase has begun in the neighboring country. The new government will also go all out to revive fundamentalism by adopting reactionary policies.

The rulers in Pakistan normally forget that Pakistan's progress depends upon following a democratic course which ensures a fair deal for all sections of society. Ms. Bhutto will do well to accept the defeat of her party with grace and it is also hoped that the anti-defection ordinance promulgated on the eve of the polls will prevent horse trading of the kind witnessed in recent months with the dismissal of Ms. Bhutto from power. The circumstances are not in her favor and she will not be able to mount a challenge similar to the one which toppled her father in 1977 following identical charges of rigging. The outcome has belied the findings of all opinion polls and the judgment of most Pakistan watchers.

Iran

IRGC Says U.S. Still 'Enemy Number One'

LD2910140590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] On the eve of the national anniversary of the battle against global arrogance, 4 November, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has issued a statement. In part, the statement reads: Let the criminal United States and its affiliated lackeys know that the proud and heroic nation of Iran, drawing inspiration from the guidance of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God's mercy be upon him —and the guidelines of the guardian of the world's Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, will never make peace [sazesh] with the United States and will continue to consider the United States Iran's and Islam's enemy number one.

The final part of the statement reads: The IRGC's brave guards and basijis [mobilization of the oppressed] will take part, in step with other strata of people, in the 4 November ceremony, National Antiglobal Arrogance Day, which will take place in front of the U.S. den of spies at 1430 on 4 November, and they will chant: Death to America!

'Den of Spies' 4 Nov Anniversary Planned

LD2810224690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] The Islamic Publicity Coordination Council has announced ceremonies to honor the 4 November anniversary of the exile of the holy imam, may his soul be admitted to paradise; student day; and also the den of spies occupation day, which has been named National Day for Struggle Against Arrogance. These will be staged with a message from his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, and with the participation of pupils and students and other strata of the people, on 4 November, opposite the former U.S. den of spies. Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, will speak at this ceremony.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Mideast Policy

LD2910150990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The military presence of U.S. and Western forces in the region under the pretext of maintaining the security of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf littoral states following Iraq's aggression against Kuwait is now seriously threatening the security of the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East, because of the United States belligerent and contradictory policies.

From the outset of the crisis resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, it was evident that the United States and its Western allies were sending troops and equipment to the region solely for the sake of their own interests and were never concerned with the interests of the people of the region. Now, almost three months after the start of the crisis, not only has security not been restored in the region, but the stationing of U.S. and Western forces in five Persian Gulf littoral states has increased the chances of a possible confrontation.

Furthermore, the extensive massing by the two sides of materiel, particularly powerful and destructive weapons such as chemical and bacteriological weapons, is a source of worry to the regional countries. The smallest spark could bring the whole region down in flames at any moment and no country, even in the remotest part of the region, would be safe from the consequences of that possible war. It is interesting that the deployment of this collection of destructive weaponry took place immediately after the withdrawal of similar weapons from East and West European countries.

While the weak and impotent regimes in the region are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the current conflict between the two global sides—one led by France and the Soviet Union in favor of a peaceful solution, and the other led by the United States and Britain in favor of the use of force—to see which one will impose its solution on the other, for the sake of preserving their own interests, the dangers of setting up explosive arsenals in the region hang over the area.

On the other hand, the problems resulting from the U.S. contradictory policies have made the situation more complex and paved the way for bigger crises in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region. The Persian Gulf crisis has enabled the United States and the Western countries to operate their weapons factories at full capacity once again following the end of the cold war between East and West and to increase the demand for military hardware, particularly from Arab countries in the region.

As arms reduction in any region is a sign of an increase in the level of security and peace in that region, by the same token a proliferation of military hardware means an increase in unrest and the possibility of war. Therefore, judging by the strategy of the United States and the West, new crises await the region, which would naturally be contrary to the interests of the people of the region and aimed at safeguarding foreign interests.

The extensive sale and dispatch of arms to Arab countries in the region, without receiving the assurance that they will not be used against Israel, has forced the United States to deliver a series of new strategic weapons to Israel in order to maintain a strategic balance between the Arab countries and Israel. The recent $700 million arms sale to Israel, which was budgeted as part of the U.S. grant-in-aid to Israel, is an example.

Sending so much weaponry to the region cannot be for establishing peace and maintaining security in the region. It is interesting that while selling strategic weapons to the regime occupying Jerusalem, the United States has called for the disarming of the Palestinian groups fighting Israel. In any case, with its belligerent and contradictory policies and by capitalizing on the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, the United States is fast driving the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East toward a destructive war, the first victims of which will be peace, security, and Muslim nations.

Special Envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Visits

Received by Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2910172190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Nobuo Matsunaga, special envoy of the prime minister of Japan, who is carrying a message from the latter to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, met today with Mr. Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceanic affairs. He briefed Mr. Borujerdi on the Japanese prime minister's tour of and Japan's policy toward the Persian Gulf region. He also expressed the concern of the Japanese Government over the continued occupation of Kuwaiti territory by Iraq.

In connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the Persian Gulf, he said: Japan and the West conclude that the preservation of security in the Persian Gulf is not possible without Iran, which enjoys an important position [as heard], and we should allow the countries of the region and the Islamic Republic of Iran to play a more important role—within the framework of joint cooperation—in the preservation of peace and the reduction of tension in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Borujerdi, while describing the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, said: The West, by giving extensive military and intelligence resources [as heard] and Arab countries in the region, by giving financial assistance, are the principal culprits in the current Persian Gulf crisis. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries to condemn Iraq's attack against Kuwait, and believes that Iraq should evacuate all Kuwaiti territory and that Kuwait's territorial integrity must be preserved.

Views Gulf Crisis With Velayati

LD3010123990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The special envoy of Japan's prime minister, at a meeting this morning with Mr. Velayati, foreign minister, described Japan's policy toward the Persian Gulf crisis and told Mr. Velayati that Japanese officials were concerned about the continuation of the current state of affairs. He also briefed Mr. Velayati on the outcome of the Japanese prime minister's visit to the region.

According to the Central News Unit, he emphasized that the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the Persian Gulf crisis gladdened the international community and Japan, and hoped that the Islamic Republic of Iran—bearing in mind its importance and its vast experiences with a variety of regional problems—may be able to take certain steps toward finding ways of solving the present problem. In connection with Iran and Japan's bilateral relations, he said: The Japanese Government would like to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the basis of this report, Mr. Velayati, explaining that the Islamic Republic of Iran was among the first countries that condemned Iraq's aggresson against Kuwait, said: We have always been against hegemony and occupation of the territories of other countries and for this very reason we cannot accept the occupation of the territories of other countries and for this very reason we cannot accept the occupation of Kuwait. At the same time we oppose the buildup of multinational forces in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf crisis to be resolved

Reaction to Comments by Group of Majles Members

Editorial Deplores Statements

LD2710213490 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—The Persian daily 'KEYHAN' in its Saturday's editorial deplored the statements made by certain parliamentarians in the Majles as "insulting and divisive" and as something which would undermine the revolution and system.

The editorial advised the concerned MPs [members of parliament] to revise their stance and "not to commit political suicide by distancing themselves from people." It also cited some examples of persons who had already faced such a destiny.

Comments from a group of MPs on the recently-held elections for the Assembly of Experts has prompted strong reaction in domestic political circles and the press.

"In our opinion, the impolite statements by one or two angry and ignorant deputies should not lead to restriction on pre-agenda speeches or a halt to their live broadcast on the radio," it said.

In this week's Friday [26 October] prayer sermon Head of the Judiciary Ayatolah Mohammad Yazdi said that in order to prevent the abuse of free speech by Majles deputies, the idea of the total omission of the pre-agenda speeches was proposed some years ago.

But, Ayatollah Yazdi disclosed that the then Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani personally advocated the MPs' right to pre-agenda speeches on the ground that the system ensures freedom of speech in a politically healthy environment.

During every session, before the parliament takes up the agenda, 3 to 5 deputies are allowed to express their views on any subject for not more than 20 minutes each.

The whole session plus the pre-agenda speeches are broadcast live on the radio F.M. channel.

Support for Khamene'i Urged

LD2710130290 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—A morning daily Saturday [27 October] stressed that obedience to the leader is a must and defying his guidelines is 'haram', forbidden according to Muslim law.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an editorial this morning wrote that obeying the leader helps further consolidate the Islamic system, but defiance of his instructions weakens it.

The daily pointed to the October 8 elections for the Assembly of Experts and the following disputes which prompted the leader to make a statement in order to put an end to controversy and thus safeguard interests of the system.

However, later on the controversary was picked up in the Majles (parliament) and heated debates were held in this respect.

In his remarks made last Wednesday [24 October] in connection with this "irrational and intolerable" trend, the leader compared the recent statements of a number of Majles deputies to what was aired by 'Radio Israel', 'Voice of America', and 'Radio Munafeqin (MKO) [Majahedin-e Khalq Organization]'.

The article stressed that one of the characteristics of the Islamic revolution and republic is its reliance on the people and not a specific faction.

Therefore, it noted, as the leader has warned, all the factions should be careful not to be estranged from the people and avoid treading on the opposite directions.

Meanwhile, students and theologians of Qom school of theology together with tradesmen and residents of the holy city held a demonstration in the city Friday morning and supported the leader's guidelines.

The demonstrators in a six-point resolution condemned any opposition to the leader's statements.

The resolution called on the judicial branch not to connive at a handful of Majles deputies who, the demonstrators said, attempted to sow discord.

Theologians of Qom school of theology also cabled a message to the leader Friday in which they expressed hope that his wise guidelines would bring those who had made irresponsible remarks to their senses.

Khamene'i Cancels Support Rally

LD2710202790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] A congregation by the people, which was to have taken place in front of the Majles tomorrow, will not take place. The office of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, issued a statement in

this connection, announcing: According to received information, there was a plan for various strata of Hezbollah people and honorable clergymen to congregate on Sunday, tomorrow morning, in front of the Majles, to declare their support for the leader's recent remarks.

People are hereby informed that the eminent leader, while expressing gratitude to the ever-present and vigilant people, and stressing the protection and preservation of the elevated position of the Majles, considers that action and that congregation to be unnecessary; he recommends that all the honorable strata of the people and the dear nation as a whole save all their efforts and energy for the preservation of unified solidarity of expression, and for the expansion of sympathy and fellow feeling between the strata and forces loyal to the sacred system of the Islamic Republic.

Yazdi Backs Khamene'i

LD2910153890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, head of the judicial branch, arrived in Sari this morning to inspect the judicial affairs of Mazandaran Province. He was welcomed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Nur-Mofidi, representative of the Vali-e Faqih [supreme jurisconsult; Khamene'i] in the districts of Gorgan and Dasht; Hojjat ol-Eslam Tabarsi, the Friday imam of Sari, the governor-general of Mazandaran, and a number of clerics and officials from the judicial and the executive branch of that province. We draw your attention to our correspondent's dispatch in this connection:

[Reporter] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch said that the aim of his visit to Mazandaran province was to meet the clerics, the officials, and the inhabitants of that province, while also inspecting the judicial affairs of Mazandaran province. The head of the judicial branch termed the developments in the country's judicial apparatus as positive and fruitful, and added: The establishment of centralization in the management of the judicial branch will speed up the investigations of the judicial matters, and reduce the gap between the time of the crime taking place and the sentencing of the culprits.

On arrival in the town of Sari, Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, accompanied by his entourage, attended a gathering of the judges and the religious judges of Mazandaran's judicial courts at that province's judiciary. In a speech there, he commented on the general conditions, and the global developments, specifically that of the Persian Gulf crisis. He said: The global powers cannot afford to neglect the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] which is one of the major and important powers in the region, and the general policy of the global arrogance is that of safeguarding its interests and curbing the influence and the spread of the Isalmic revolution inside the other countries in the region. The head of the judicial branch added: Today the world's assessments have shown the importance and significance of the IRI, and hence they consider the establishment of a regonal security project, without the presence of the IRI, impossible.

In continuation of his remarks, Mr. Yazdi referred to the recent advice graciously rendered by the great leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, based on safeguarding the sanctity, integrity, and the official position of the Majles. He described the velayate faqih [vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult] as the strong bond which unites the community, and emphasized the need for solidarity and unity among all strata of the community, under the leadership of the vali-e amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims.

Concluding his remarks, the head of the judicial branch praised the judges, religious judges, and the judicial officials of Mazanderan Province for their services. He called for the speeding up of investigations into the people's judicial problems of the deprived strata of the community.

The head of the judicial branch is accompanied by Mr. Shustari, the minister of justice, the head of the country's land and property registration office, a number of advisors and deputies to the head of the judicial branch, and a number of the Majles deputies for Mazandaran

KEYHAN Views Prospects for War in Gulf

LD2910182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—A Persian daily said Monday [29 October] that despite international efforts for a peaceful end to the occupation of Kuwait the two sides to the conflict continue their propaganda warfare and their big threats against each other.

"The U.S. and Iraq as the principal contenders in occupied Kuwait are still concentrating on how to boost their military capacity," noted KEYHAN.

It said over the past few weeks the visit to Baghdad by a Soviet envoy and later to a few Western countries involved in the crisis was the most significant effort undertaken to avert war and to lead the crisis into a political channel.

The daily continued that such efforts too, "are nearing a total collapse" with the opposition of the U.S. Congress to any action which tends to relate the Kuwait crisis to the occupation of Palestine, coupled with Iraq's implicit contentment with the annexation of at least a segment of Kuwait's territory becoming transparent.

It said, the U.S. secretary of state's calling on the Congress to give sufficient elbow-room to the U.S. President for deciding when to initiate a pre-emptive war, and in addition the recent efforts by Washington and its Western allies for making the U.N. Security Council issue a new resolution for committing Iraq to pay indemnities after the end to the crisis, betray America's real intentions.

It means, added KEYHAN, the U.S. is digging itself into a position which will reasonably lead only to a destructive war for the states of the region.

Middle East Security System 'Remains Unclear'

LD2710225890 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Athens, Oct 27, IRNA—In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis, the United States has floated a proposal to set up a regional security system for the Middle East, not ruling out the cooperation of non-Arab states in the area.

Egypt's president Husni Mubarak, during his recent visit to Persian Gulf Arab states, also suggested the creation of a joint Arab security arrangement.

Except for the ideas, the aim, scope and intent of such a new regional order remains unclear. One thing is, however, certain—the U.S. wants to have a permanent foothold in the area through this sytem which could resemble the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Whether the new arrangements would be set up after the end of the present crisis, or earlier, in order to help in ending it, is a matter for speculation.

According to a study prepared by the Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, the Egyptian Government think the basic question is that who would be the common enemy after the end of the Persian Gulf crisis and against whom the new security system will be directed? [as received]

It is not enough that the new arrangements would be set up against a theoretical enemy. NATO was formed to face the Soviet threat, but the new East-West understanding is forcing the alliance to refocus its priorities elsewhere.

That such a security system would be a threat to the U.S.' main ally in the region, Israel, remains out of the question.

The study rules out that Iran could be regarded as the common enemy. It notes that the West is in favor of improving relations with the Islamic Republic and also sympathises with the idea that Iran should be a part of the new security system.

Iran cannot be looked upon as a common enemy to all the Arab states that would participate in the set-up, including the PGCC [Persian Gulf Cooperation Council] states and Syria.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) faced strong differences in trying to set up a common security system. Singapore, Thailand and the Phillipines saw in the Soviet Union the real threat, while Indonesia and Malaysia viewed China as the real danger.

ASEAN was established in 1967 to promote economic, social and cultural relations among Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It would also be difficult to establish a security system in the Middle East without the consent or even some kind of participation of the Soviet Union which is close to the region.

Moscow is in favour of holding an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problems. The study suggested that the Soviet Union would be willing to accept the holding of a Middle East security conference on the lines of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), aimed at providing peace and stability in Europe between East and West.

Britain is also in favour of such a conference, which would offer the U.S. to play the negotiator's role in the formation of the regional arrangement without it being the chief player for such a set-up.

But the conflict between Israel and the Islamic world is a big hurdle to this proposal. The Zionist state has already rejected the idea of an international peace conference.

If the Persian Gulf crisis leads to a military conflict and the collapse of the present Iraqi regime the study prefers the holding of a conference rather than setting up of a new order because the threat from Iraq would have died down.

The defeat of Iraq would also force the Arab states, which are supporting it today, to reconcile with the new emerging situation.

If the crisis is solved through a peaceful settlement which leaves the Iraqi regime intact, the American proposal to create a regional security system should be preferred as the Iraqi threat would remain, says the study.

If neither of the two options succeed, then the establishment of the security order becomes incumbent in order to put strategic pressure on Baghdad.

Gulf Needs Effective Islamic Security System

LD3010122390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0750 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Commentary from the Holy Defense Program]

[Text] The days come and go and new events add new dimensions to the Persian Gulf crisis with every passing moment. The alignment of Iraqi and U.S. forces opposite one another, reciprocal threats made by the heads of the two countries and, finally, the unprecedented scale of the weaponry piled up for a confrontation in the region are all seen as clear evidence of the complicated and dangerous situation currently existing. It is obvious that in such circumstances any poorly judged action, miscalculation, or act of adventurism, can bring about a huge explosion; an explosion, the shock waves of which will shake the pillars of international order.

For that reason, and to prevent any irreparable damage, it seems that, in the circumstances, the best thing is for the two sides to exercise self-restraint and to keep calm so that the groundwork is laid for the peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the United States from the region. That is an approach stressed repeatedly by the Islamic Republic of Iran as something which can restore peace and calm in the region most rapidly and without the least damage.

In keeping with that, the Islamic Republic of Iran reminds the heads of the countries of the region of the need for an in-depth and immediate consideration of planning and establishing an effective security system. The reality is that, in the course of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent dispatch of forces to the region by the United States which led to an intensification of the crisis, the total defeat of two security scenarios was proven to everyone. On the one hand, the hesitation, bewilderment and, ultimately, impotence of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in the face of the invasion of Kuwait, as one of its members demonstrated that regional pacts will be of no use as long as they are incapable of making decisions or, of course, fulfilling their responsibility.

The GCC, despite all the propaganda and funds which were poured into it in the past, had, in practice, become an ostentatious propaganda machine because of the non-participation of the region's powerful countries, and its ineffectiveness was revealed for all to see in the case of the invasion of Kuwait. On the other hand, the idea of relying on foreign powers, and especialy the United States, for defending oneself and for resolving the crisis is seen today as a failed idea because, first, the United States is interfering in the matter not for the sake of defending the countries of the region but for the protection of its own interests. And, secondly, the participation of the United States in the crisis has not only not resolved or alleviated the crisis but has added new dimensions and complexities to it as we can now see.

On the basis of the available evidence, it seems that the idea of establishing a strong regional pact is gradually taking root; a pact, the condition for the membership of which is that the countries be Islamic, and the realization of which will allow any regional or even international act of aggression to be crushed and resolved.

Paper Suggests Mediation Between Iraq, Kurds

LD2910113690 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—An English-language morning daily welcomed a new move by the Iraqi president Saddam Husayn to make peace with Iraq's Kurdish minority.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial Monday [29 October] wrote that this could be another signal of good will for more than 95,000 Kurds now living in refugee camps in Iran and tens of thousands more residing in Turkey.

"While the Iraqi Kurds should take advantage of Saddam's new peace offer and reach an agreement for a long lasting peace in their region, they should remember that verbal promises will not solve their problems," said the daily.

Meanwhile, it advised the Iraqi president to "declare a true amnesty for thousands of Iraqi Kurds...and let them return to their traditional lands."

With respect to peace negotiations between Iraqi and Kurdish officials, the daily noted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran can play a vital role as a mediator between the two sides."

Moreover, it concluded, "Iran's improving relations with Iraq could be a major factor for Tehran to play host for example, as a meeting ground between Iraqi and Kurdish officials."

Karrubi Names Struggle Against Zionism Organizer

LD2810104590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Text] In keeping with the implementation of Article One of the Support for the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine Law, which stipulates that the Majles executive committee is dutybound to stage a conference with the participation of representatives from Islamic countries and specialists to deepen, extend, and support the Islamic Revolution of the people of Palestine, Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, appointed by decree Mr. Seyyed Abd al Vahed Musavi-Lari, Majles deputy for Tehran, as the head of the headquarters for staging the International Conference on Struggle against Zionism (mobarezeh ba sauhunism). In a part of this decree, it is stated: Bearing in mind the current sensitive situation which is witness daily to further crimes committed by the global arrogance and its illegitimate offspring, international Zionism, worldwide and particularly in the victimized territory of Palestine, it is hoped that through the cooperation of the respected Majles deputies and respected relevant ministers, you will organise the headquarters for staging the international conference and will invite all local and foreign specialists and, political, religious, and national figures to participate in that conference.

Soviet Help Sought for Isfahan Steel Mill

LD2910211490 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 29, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Hoseyn Mahlujchi Monday underscored the importance of boosting output at the Isfahan steel mill to its minimum capacity of 1.9 million tons per year, and sought Soviet help for overcoming problems in this regard. During his first round of talks with Soviet Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy Serafim V. Kolpakov, Mahlujchi outlined the

failure of the Soviet-built complex to reach nominal production capacity, and said that in view of the resultant losses, the Soviet partner should come up with a clear and short-term plan to solve the problems.

He also said that Iran was interested in purchasing iron ore and iron bars from the Soviet Union.

Mahlujchi, who arrived in Moscow yesterday, also suggested an Iran-Soviet joint venture for producing alumina powder on the Qeshm Island free economic zone off Iran's southern coast in the Persian Gulf. Kolpakov welcomed Iran's proposals and calling for improved and broadened bilateral cooperation, said a group of Soviet technicians would visit Isfahan to inspect problems plaguing the steel complex.

He also offered training courses for Iranian technicians and said Moscow will supply Iran with needed spare parts.

The Soviet minister expressed hope that after prompt conclusion of contracts deemed necessary to deal with the case, the Isfahan steel complex would reach its nominal capacity before long.

Turning to joint ventures on Qeshm Island, Kolpakov suggested that a third country be involved to provide the raw materials required for the alumina project. He added that Soviet expertise and Iranian manpower coupled with raw materials from a third country, could lay the proper groundwork to produce aluminum out of oxide and production of alumina powder.

Minister, Soviet Official Discuss Water Resources

LD3010103890 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—Tehran-Moscow cooperation for transfer of technolgy and utilization of water resources were discussed in a meeting of the visiting Soviet acting minister of land reclamation and water resources Sadeq Palatzadeh [name as received] and Deputy Construction Jihad Minister 'Ali Abdollahi here Monday.

Palatzadeh who is here since last week expressed the hope that the two countries will make use of the potentials to cooperate in the fields of science, research and joint projects.

Abdollahi briefed the Soviet official on Iran's first five-year development plan, water supply projects in agricultural sector and Tehran-Moscow ties.

President Meets With Released Clerical POW's

LD2810115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Oct 90

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said last night at a gathering of a large number of released clerical POW's, with reference to the constant involvement of the clergy in all aspects of the revolution: The involvement of the clergy in the imposed war has played an effective part in the fate of society. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We achieved the best form of victory in the war. Most of our demands were met. Now we must continue our good deeds, to go on receiving God's blessings. Then this nation will leave its mark on the world and make history.

During the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam Abu-Torabi, representative of the jurisconsult [Khamene'i] in the Office of Affairs of Released POW's, introduced the audience and conveyed the allegience of the released POW's to the esteemed leader and their full support for the wise policies of the president. He said: We are proud to follow the commands of the leader and the custodian of the order of the Muslims. As servants of this nation, we hope to repay our debt to this great revolution and this honorable nation.

Daily Comments on Plight of Tourists in Turkey

LD2710132990 Tehran IRNA in English 1057 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 27, IRNA—A morning daily here Saturday [27 October] criticized the Foreign Ministry for having failed to make a serious and firm action in connection with the intensified maltreatment of the Iranian tourists in Turkey.

In a commentary today, 'ABRAR' noted that what is strange is that all cases of murder and theft against Iranian travellers have been reported to the Turkish police.

"What is even more strange is that why the Foreign Ministry has so far sufficed to submitting letters of protests and complaints to the Turkish authorities," wrote the daily.

Iran's consulate in Istanbul has reported over 100 cases of theft to the office of Istanbul governor general during the past few months, but has received no reply, said the daily.

Meanwhile, Iranian travellers recently back from Turkey have disclosed that the Turkish police is also involved in the armed robbery and blackmailing bus drivers carrying Iranian travellers to Ankara or Istanbul.

Other reports from Turkey indicate that the Turkish police under the pretext of checking passports of Iranian travellers have repeatedly held their documents and asked for bribes in return for the papers.

Those Iranians who have refused to give money, have been arrested and tortured by the Turkish police, noted the article adding that the same police through collaboration of its agents have forced the Iranian women to corruption and prostitution.

Therefore, the article stressed, Iranians in advance must be warned of lack of security in Turkey and be told that by travelling to Turkey they risk their money, belongings and lives.

The daily concluded by calling upon the Foreign Ministry to warn Iranians against dangers threatening their lives and property in Turkey.

Pakistan

West Criticized for Biased Election Coverage

BK3010124490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] The Ethics Committee of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors have expressed grave concern at the flagrant violation of its code of conduct by certain member publications, which resulted in severe strictures by the Supreme Court. The committee, at its meeting in Karachi, also observed that reporting by Western media, especially British newspapers, was biased, prejudiced, and subjective in the preelection days. Their coverage was against all principles of fair and impartial journalism and also the democratic traditions which Britain and other Western nations advocate.

President on Parliament Session, Violence

BK3010072490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the inaugural session of the newly elected National Assembly will be held after the publication of the official election results. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad last evening.

Replying to a question about incidents of violence, he said such incidents occur during elections, and that they are not of an extraordinary nature. Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who was also present on the occasion, said such incidents were unfortunate.

Election Commissioner on Repolling Petitions

BK2910164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] The chief election commissioner, Justice Naimuddin, has said only four formal complaints, election petitions have been received for recounting or repolling from all over the country so far. In an interview with APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] in Islamabad today, he said the election commission had disposed of a number of informal complaints and provided relief where necessary. Regarding the allegation of rigging by a political group, he said the only answer was to provide legal proof. The doors of the election commission are open for any complaint. Otherwise there is freedom of press and freedom of expression for everybody in the country. He said the gazette notification regarding results will be issued in the next two or three days. During the next 45 days election petitions will be received. Election tribunals will be constituted in proportion to the number of complaints the commission receives.

Interior Minister Remarks on Elections, Aid

BK2910160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Interior Minister Mian Zahid Sarfraz has said that international observers have already declared that the general elections were held in a free and fair manner. Speaking at a news conference in Islambad this afternoon, he said the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] had decisively routed the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in the elections. On acts of violence, he said these were committed by the PPP, as most of the victims were IJI workers.

The interior minister said Pakistan's nuclear program is totally peaceful and if other countries of the region permit the inspection of their nuclear installations, then Pakistan is prepared to do likewise. He urged U.S. President Bush to restore military and economic aid to Pakistan and certify that Pakistan is not manufacturing nuclear weapons.

Nawaz Sharif Interviewed on Election Outcome

BK2710135390 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 27 Oct 90 pp 1, 10

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Lahore, Oct. 26—The President of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI] Mian Nawaz Sharif, has said that IJI would make massive efforts to build up a society based on Islamic social justice in accordance with the manifesto of IJI.

Addressing a large gathering which converged at Badshahi Mosque to offer thanksgiving prayers on the success of IJI in the elections, Mian Nawaz Sharif said that the mandate given by the people to IJI is in fact a mandate of the people towards the enforcement of Islam.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said that the elections' results have surprised the world. The way the Pakistani nation had exerted its will and gave a clear-cut mandate to a single party is unique in itself.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said that the awareness and conscience of the people could be imagined from this fact that they had foreseen that PPP [Pakistan Peoples' Party] was trying to mislead them in spite of its past follies and corruption. He said, "I salute the people of Pakistan and assure them that IJI would certainly come up to their expectations."

The IJI chief said that those who took pride in securing American aid for country's development were not sincere to the country and the nation. They have committed excesses with the people and buried the nation under the debris of foreign loans. He said instead of relying on

foreign loans, the IJI government would develop country's own resources and produce alternative sources of funds for development. He said the Muslims believe in the sovereignty of Allah and none else. It is Allah who feeds His creatures. There was no need for begging, he added, and said the loan-taking priorities would not dominate the policies of IJI in foreign relations. "We will maintain relations on the basis of equality and fairplay."

Mian Nawaz Sharif said that time has come when the man in the street suffering from hunger would be able to ask the ruler for his negligence and the rulers would be taken to task for their mistakes.

Mian Fazal Haq, Maulana Abdul Qadir Azad, Hafiz Abdul Qadir Ropri, Mayor Lahore, Khawaja Riaz Mahmood also offered thanksgiving prayers at Badshahi Mosque.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] adds: He said that since the creation of Pakistan, none of the political parties sincerely served the nation after coming into power, but always exploited the poor and did nothing for their weal.

He urged the people to step out of their house tomorrow and exercise their right of franchise in the provincial assemblies elections in favour of the IJI so that stable government could also be formed in provinces having full understanding and harmony with the federal government for further strengthening the national solidarity and integrity.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif assured that IJI would take the nation into confidence on all important international and national issues and the verdict of the majority would be honoured in the best democratic way. He also assured that IJI would conduct the governmental affairs amicably with the mutual understanding and consultations of its components.

He said that now the IJI was in a position to form a stable government at the centre and would come upto the expections of the poor. He said that IJI would work collectively for the betterment of the poor.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said that since the creation of Pakistan, none of the political party sincerely served the nation after coming into power, but always exploited the poor, and did nothing for their quick weal. He said that the basic objectives for the creation of Pakistan had not so far been achieved by any government.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said that the historic victory of IJI in the National Assembly elections with a clear cut majority, would be a new and unique chapter in the history of the country. He said that the IJI was fully determined to establish a society based on easy and inexpensive justice and Islamic system in which all people irrespective of their social status would be treated at par.

He assured that the IJI would solve the problems of the poor, on top priority basis and would change the destiny of the country by establishing an egalitarian society. He said that after the formation of IJI government, the people would themselves realise the development only within three or four months.

The IJI Chief said that now the people had wiped out the "Bhutto-ism" and turned down the PPP polices. He said that patriotic people had diverted the storm of PPP towards its defeat by casting ballot in favour of IJI.

He said that the IJI would follow the norms of democracy and uphold glorious democratic and political principles set by the Father of the Nation, the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that the IJI would not indulge any sort of political victimisation against any of political party especially the PPP.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said that such a mandate was not even given to late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1970 general elections as the IJI had obtained from the people in the country. He said that the IJI would leave no stone unturned to implement nationwide development programmes for the uplift of poor.

He said that the IJI would bring about an industrial and economic revolution in the country and all indigenous resources would be fully exploited to curtail the dependence on foreign assistance.

The IJI Chief said that efforts would be made to make the country self-sufficient in all spheres of life. He claimed that the IJI would convert the country into a citadel of Islam.

He said that now the people had realised the importance of the creation of Pakistan and its objectives. He said that Pakistan was carved out under the sagacious leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who struggle hard day and night in this regard and always advocated the cause of the Muslims.

He said that now the dream of the Father of the Nation, for an Islamic welfare State would be given practical shape by the IJI because majority of the people had mandated it.

He urged the people to step out of their house tomorrow and exercise their right of franchise in the Provincial assemblies elections in favour of the IJI so that stable government could also be formed in provinces having full understanding and harmony with the federal government for further strengthen the National solidarity and integrity.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif assured that IJI would take the nation into confidence on all important international and national issues and verdict of the majority would be honoured in the best democratic way. He also assured that IJI would conduct the governmental affairs amicably with the mutual understanding and consultations of its components.

He said that efforts would also be made to bring back such parliamentarians of the IJI, who in the past

favoured the PPP. He said they would be welcomed back into IJI ranks in a democratic manner.

He said that IJI manifesto would ensure free and quick dispensation of justice, rule of law, supremacy of the constitution, elimination of poverty, and overall development for the people belonging to all strata of society.

The IJI Chief said that the IJI programme would guarantee that tyranny would not be tolerated at all and tyrants would be taken to task forthwith. He said that in this regard, a legislation would be made to ensure justice to aggrieved party soon.

He said that Almighty Allah had given an opportunity to IJI people of the country to introduce Islamic system of government aimed at the weal of the people. He added that IJI would take full advantage of this opportunity and perform its obligations in the best interest of the nation and people.

He urged the people not to resort to air-firing in connection with the election victory and asked them to offer nawafals [Supplementary Prayers] in their mosques and express their humble submission to Almighty Allah Who crowned the IJI with success.

Bhutto Repeats Fraud Charge, Demands New Vote

BK2910152790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 29 (AFP)—Former Premier Benazir Bhutto, renewing charges of massive rigging of last week's national and provincial elections, Monday demanded a repoll in about 50 parliamentary constituencies.

The polling officers in these constituencies had refused to issue mandatory certificates of the vote count to the polling agents, Ms. Bhutto told a press conference here.

"We demand a repoll at all those places for which the election commission does not have certified sheets of vote count," Ms. Bhutto said.

She alleged that ballot boxes were stuffed before reaching the returning officers and that the state-run television had announced concocted results of the elections held on October 24.

Ms. Bhutto also demanded that the election commission conduct a recount of ballots in those constituencies where the candidates had lodged protests within 48 hours and the recount should take place in the presence of the candidates.

"The nation was cheated and the entire planning was masterminded by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan," Ms. Bhutto said angrily, adding that Pakistan was now ruled by a "constitutional dictatorship."

Her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) was routed in last week's elections to the parliament and four provincial assemblies by the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) which has denied the fraud charges as baseless.

Ms. Bhutto, advancing some new arguments in support of her claims, said the big gap between the seat scores was in sharp contrast to vote percentages secured by the PDA and the IJI.

She said published figures based on election commission estimates showed that the two parties had both received around 38.5 per cent of the vote and asked why the results did not reflect this figure. The IJI bagged 105 parliament seats against the PDA's 45.

Three teams of international poll observers have given the elections a clean bill while admitting to serious problems, but a fourth has cast doubts about the entire election process.

A close aide of Ms. Bhutto, former Interior Minister Aitezaz Ahsan, said the 40-man Washington-based National Democratic Istitute (NDI) observer team had given their clean-bill verdict without "considering the irrationality of the IJI victory."

He said the voter turnout had been low but "inflated figures" were given contrary to all press reports and observations.

Mr. Ahsan, who won from a Lahore constituency, said there had been no spontaneous celebration after the election because the nation was "stunned" by the results.

Ms. Bhutto said the forthcoming meeting of the PDA high command here on Saturday would decide whether or not to boycott the assembly which she claimed did not represent the people of Pakistan.

Minister Reaffirms Debt Service Commitment

BK3010091290 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 30 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 29—Attention of the Finance Minister Senator Sartaj Aziz has been drawn to a statement attributed to Mr. Zahid Sarfraz, the Interior Minister regarding foreign debt servicing.

The Finance Minister has categorically stated that there is no question of Pakistan defaulting on foreign debt servicing or not honouring its international financial obligation.

The Government of Pakistan has not contemplated any such measure as is being attributed to Mr. Zahid Sarfraz nor he is authorised to make such a statement.

New Deputy Chief of Army Staff Appointed

BK2910092290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Oct 90

[Text] According to an ISCI [expansion not known] press release, Lieutenant General Chaudhry Imtiazullah Warraich has been appointed Deputy Chief of Army Staff and Major General Chaudhry Sardar Ali has been promoted to Lieutenant General.

U.S. 'Near-Monopoly' Over UN Policies Viewed

BK2510152690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "United (Against) Nations"]

[Text] The forty-fifth birthday of the United Nations marked on Wednesday is not likely to have brought cheers to a vast majority of the organisation's members who have a good reason to feel apprehensive at the manner in which the global forum of supposedly co-equal member states has of late been increasingly used by the 'more equal' than other powers as an exclusive club to further their collective interests. In fact, the even more worrisome aspect of the new consensus among the Big Five members of the Security Council is the near-monopoly which the only superpower in the world—the United States of America—has come to exercise over UN policies. If the UN had in earlier times fallen short of proving to be an effective instrument for checking the excesses committed by a member state against another, in view of the permanent Security Council members' propensity to checkmate each other's initiatives, the situation has now developed into a really alarming scenario. Going by the successful way in which the United States has in recent months used the Security Council to bestow its unilateral policy on the Middle East with the specious element of international legitimacy, the question which the other UN members in general and those belonging to the disadvantaged, Third World cannot shirk any longer is regarding who is to guard them against the guard.

The United States of America may, subsequent to the rash of Resolutions on the Gulf crisis adopted by the Security Council on Washington's orchestration, have felt it necessary to wash off its image, bullying the UN to meet its blatantly partisan objectives, but the effort has lacked credibility. The Resolution adopted by the Security Council on the recent killing of several Palestinians by the Zionist forces in occupied Arab land, with the acquiescence of the United States, may well have marked a major departure from Washington's traditional attitude of bailing out Tel Aviv from even the most indefensible position in the world body yet the 'landmark' Resolution has failed to get off the ground. The United Nations has failed miserably in enforcing the global sanction against the illegitimate Zionist entity in this case as well as to Tel Aviv's refusal to cooperate with the Secretary General. And that is that. Similarly, the reign of death and terror let loose by the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir, resulting in untold misery to the subjugated Muslim inhabitants, continues to escape the notice of the United Nations. If the UN is to survive as a credible world body, the only choice is for the People's Republic of China to refuse to toe the Western imperialist line in the Security Council. It is the only permanent member of the security Council which has no historical, cultural, economic or religious grounds to fear or hate the Third World nations and the Muslim peoples in particular.

Need for, Uses of U.S. Aid Package Stressed

BK2910134290 Lahore THE NATION in English 29 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Importance of Aid"]

[Text] As the leader of the majority party the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] President, Mr Nawaz Sharif's first political and economic priority should be to negotiate restoration of US aid. The IJI's crucial support emanating from the industrial community requires the free flow of aid which ensures the flow of credit to business houses dependent on a large extent on loans from the banking sector for setting up new enterprises, expansion and modernisation. It is utilised not only for domestic credit purposes but also to supply technologically advanced military equipment (essential in the current context of Indo-Pak tensions over the Kashmir issue) and for investing in social sector development. Thus a cessation of US aid is likely to alienate three major pressure groups in the country, i.e., the army, the industrialists and the passive majority of the poor. However, the task of Mr Nawaz Sharif is made easier as the American pre-election concern over the holding of fair polls in Pakistan was proved unfounded by the 40-member international delegation of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute.

It is evident that Pakistan cannot really do without aid for political and economic reasons despite Mr Nawaz Sharif's insistence that an IJI government would lower the dependence on aid. Rhetoric aside aid is largely responsible for financing the bulk of development in the infrastructure sectors specifically energy, gas, health, telecommunications, etc. It also forms a vital source of finance for narrowing the government's budgetary deficit without which inflation would sky rocket. Aid is also essential for balance of payment support without which the government would owe more abroad than with aid. Of course, the problems associated with trying to balance the balance of payment without aid are too horrendous for any country's domestic economy to be even entertained as a viable policy. And finally without aid unemployment and inflation would rise destabilising the government in power. It is, therefore, out of the question that the IJI would consider the possibility of a smaller aid package leave alone a complete cessation of aid.

Solarz Charges on Kashmir Issue Criticized

BK3010095590 Lahore THE NATION in English 30 Oct 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Solarz and Pakistan"]

[Text] US Congressman Stephen Solarz, while acknowledging the fact that the result of the polls in Pakistan were valid enough, took the opportunity to also remind us on which side he was on. His home constituency in the US is said to have a sizeable population of immigrants from India. Keeping on the right side of them by making occasional noises about how Pakistan has wronged India, is thus

understandable. But losing one's balance to a degree that one cannot even distinguish between right and wrong, brings one's integrity in serious doubt. Mr Solarz has said that Pakistan should stop interfering in the internal affairs of India. His charge is against Pakistan's support to the Kashmiri freedom-fighters. Mr Solarz, as well as everyone else conversant with the affairs of the sub-continent, knows that Kashmir is a disputed territory between India and Pakistan. If he has not read the UN Resolutions on this point, he should. So Kashmir is not an internal matter of India. But assuming for the sake of argument that Kashmir is India's internal matter, what is there to object against the indignation that Pakistanis feel about the slaughter of innocent men, women and children at the hands of the Indian troops? Pakistan, unfortunately for Kashmiris, have done little else.

When Pakistan voiced such feelings against the racist regime of South Africa, did Pakistan do any wrong? Or, when Pakistan protests against the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians, is it to be held guilty of interfering in Israel's internal affairs? Mr Solarz's remarks are particularly callous and dishonest when one sees them in the context of what neutral foreign observers and human rights activists from within, have observed and written. India's reign of terror they have said is far worse than that of South Africa and Israel. Seeking constituency votes may be a legitimate pursuit for a politician but condoning murder and rape is criminal. Helping Kashmiris against the Indian monster would be a noble cause, if Pakistan could perform it. Pakistan, alas, is too bogged down in its own affairs to do any such thing. And yet Mr Solarz has complained. Has he no sense of shame left in him?

Bhutto's Party Urged To Accept Voter Mandate

BK2910133590 Lahore THE NATION in English 29 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Rigging Charge"]

[Text] The teams of foreign observers sent by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs as well as that of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], have certified that the polls on October 24 were generally free and fair. The PPP [Pakistan People's Party] allegation of rigging, according to these observers, had not been substantiated by any concrete evidence. The PPP Co-Chairpersion has alleged that in about 24 constituencies 40 to 50 polling stations had pro-IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] Presiding Officers, who indulged in various malpractices, including switching of ballot boxes. She has, however, not been able to provide any hard evidence in support of these charges. The foreign observers have conceded that the caretaker government's advantage of incumbency which was also evident in its partisan use of the electronic media, could have influenced the voters in its favour, but that does seem to have led to any misuse of the polling process. Be that as it may, the onus of substantiating rigging charges is on the PPP, especially when its vote-bank seems to have remained intact. Not withstanding charges of selective rigging the IJI gain appears to have been the result of its better election strategy—one-to-one contest in most cases, voters' preference to vote for one alliance or the other, and registration of additional votes—than anything else.

While the PPP may find it difficult to accept a loss of this magnitude, it should remember that its mandate of '88 gave it only a marginal advantage over the IJI. The IJI remained in contention till the very end. All it needed was a few favourable factors to overturn the edge that the PPP had, and it got them in '90. While it is up to the PPP to file election petitions against individual results, the chances of its succeeding on any major scale are likely to remain slim. And even if it succeeds in a few cases, the gap between 105 IJI seats against 45 of its own, is too large to bridge. The PPP would be well advised to identify the weaknesses which led to this set back and wait for the next elections, when it would be the IJI that would be put on the defensive than the PPP.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Members, Sinhalese Civilians Killed

BK2610152090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1453 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 26 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas killed four Sinhalese civilians in renewed violence in Sri Lanka's eastern province, officials said Friday, as fleeing Moslems streamed out of the island's strife-torn areas. Tamil sources meanwhile said gunmen suspected to be members of a Tamil group opposed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) killed five Tigers and dumped their bodies near the eastern town of Batticaloa.

A military spokesman here said that the rebels Thursday raided a majority Sinhalese village in Pulmoddai in the coastal district of Trincomalee and shot dead four civilians and escaped before troops could arrive. Heavily armed LTTE fighters who are said to be roaming jungle areas in the island's east have killed scores of Sinhalese since renewing their secessionist war in the northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

The hardline Tigers have vowed to drive away the Sinhalese and government troops from the northeast in their bid to carve out an independent homeland called Eelam. On Tuesday, the rebels massacred 10 Sinhalese villagers outside the northern province borders while on Thursday they ambushed and killed seven army soldiers in Trincomalee District.

Heavy fighting broke out in Trincomalee and neighbouring districts of Batticaloa and Ampara after the LTTE on June 11 rejected peace talks it had been holding with Colombo for 14 months to renew its separatist campaign. Hundreds of LTTE cadres, most of them in their teens, retreated into thick forests in the east in the face of a major army drive to retake the towns that had come under LTTE control.

But the guerrillas have continued their battle against government forces from well-fortified camps in the jungles, frequently ambushing troops and escaping with the weapons of the dead soldiers. Gunmen believed to be from a rival group killed five LTTE rebels Thursday and dumped their bodies near Batticaloa, Tamil sources said.

Military officials could not confirm the report but said members of rival Tamil groups are known to have settled scores with LTTE cadres still living in areas that have been recaptured by Colombo troops. The fresh violence came as hundreds of Moslems continued to flee south from the northern areas of Chavakachcheri, Kilinochchi and Mannar after the LTTE warned them to vacate their homes by Friday night.

The military spokesman said that about 2,000 Moslems had sought protection at the Silavaturai army camp in Mannar after the LTTE threatened to kill those who disobeyed the group's orders. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne said he would direct the army to shoot on sight anyone who tried to evict Moslems from Mannar District.

One third of Sri Lanka's one million Moslems live in the northeast. But thousands of them have joined Sinhalese and Tamils affected by the violence in refugee camps set up by the government. According to unofficial and official sources, the violence in the northeast since June 11 has left 4,500 people dead.

Wijeratne Explains Operations Against LTTE

BK2610120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Oct 90

[Text] The world has now come to realize that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], which claims to be the liberators of the Tamil-speaking people in Sri Lanka, is no more the liberators of Tamils, but an enemy organization of the Tamils and the freedom-loving people of the country. This was stated by the minister of plantation industries and state minister of defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, at the weekly cabinet news briefing held at the parliamentary complex yesterday. He added that the extensive damage caused by the LTTE terrorists to the Kankesanthurai cement factory is a clear proof of how they act against the wishes of the Tamil people. He pointed out that innocent Tamil civilians are not to be blamed for not rising against the terrorists. They are helpless before the LTTE guns.

Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne said that the security forces will fight this terrorist menace until it is completely wiped out of the country. The minister said that the world and the people of this country should know the extensive harm and damage that the LTTE had caused to the Jaffna peninsula, its people and to the country as a whole.

Referring to the situation in the north, Minister Wijeratne pointed out that the Sri Lankan forces were advancing. They have advanced from Palaly to Kankesanthurai and Palaly to Keerimalai, (Mahawadhpuram), Kadduwan, Kurumba City, Vasavilan and (Chulakatti), covering a large area during the last few days.

Speaking to newsmen about the Eastern front, Mr. Wijeratne said that the LTTE had put out a pamphlet supposed to be from the Muslim Jihad organization. It calls upon the Tamils and the Sinhalese in the Amapara District to leave the area within two weeks as the organization intends to make Ampara a Muslim area. Mr. Wijeratne said that he was confident that the Muslims would not do it.

Mr. Wijeratne, who read out another statement by the LTTE ordering the Muslims living in the Mannar island to vacate their homes by Sunday the 28th, said he would alert the forces to shoot-at-sight any one trying to evict any Muslim from those areas. Mopping up operations are still continuing in the Batticaloa area.

Vows To Wipe Out 'Terrorists'

BK3010105090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0851 GMT 30 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne outraged by the harassments caused by the Tigers to the Muslims in the north and east today vowed he would wipe out the Tiger terrorists in Mannar before the weekend, states today's OBSERVER in a report by Nicholas Candappa. Minister Wijeratne said that the government had now stepped in and were evacuating Muslims by boat from Mannar. Boats belonging to the Sri Lanka Navy and other government agencies and also the boats in the private sector were being used to evacuate the Mannar Muslims. "Once we have evacuated the Muslims we will deal with the terrorists. I will not say how, we will destroy them," Mr. Wijeratne said. The Tigers earlier warned Muslims in Mannar to get out of the area by last Friday October 26. Frightened Muslims paid up to rs. [rupees] 65,000 for a boat to carry them to safer areas. The Tigers were also demanding three sovereigns of gold. Fuel for the boats were released only after the payment of the rs. 65,000. Until last weekend, about 30,000 Muslims had fled Mannar & Mannar alone. [as received] Muslims in other areas in the north and east are also fleeing from the terrorists. Government will first deal with the situation in Mannar and then come down harder on the terrorists in the other areas.

8,000 Muslims Said Fleeing Mannar After Threats

BK2910123290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0950 GMT 29 Oct 90

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 29 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—President of the Muslim Refugees Relief Organisation Abdul W.M. Ameer claimed at a press conference he held in Colombo this morning, that an estimated 8,000 Muslim refugees

had fled the northwest island of Mannar, following LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] threats to kill them if they did not quit.

Mr. Ameer said that according to latest reports, the Tigers had extended the quit Mannar deadline to Muslims from Sunday [28 October] to Wednesday.

Mr. Ameer said following the ultimatum issued by the LTTE to the Muslims of Mannar, 5,000 refugees had arrived in Kalpitiya and another 3,000 had arrived in Medavachiya and Anuradhapura in the north-central province of Sri Lanka.

Ali Zahir Moulana, secretary, Muslim Refugees Relief Organisation, said that a band of armed LTTE terrorists arrived at the villages of Erukkalampity, Pudukudiyiruppu and Tarapuram on the 21st in the Mannar area and had rounded up all Muslim businessmen in the area. They demanded money by force. Many had to part with cash from 1 lakh to 5 lakh of rupees in fear of (?threat to) life. They later on raided the Muslim houses and stole all jewelry and other valuable items.

In the process, about 30 people, who resisted to this, were assaulted.

No reason was given why the Muslims were being asked to leave Mannar. It was announced that summary execution will be meted to Muslims staying back, as earlier [in] Eravur and Kathankudy areas in the east, he said.

Parliament Members Allege Human Rights Violations

BK2710121890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, several members of parliament have alleged that human rights violations continue unabated. The members belonging to the opposition parties were participating in the debate on extension of the emergency yesterday. They said the indiscriminate abduction and killings by the police are still continuing and false stories are being spread about terrorism. The entire Tamil population in the northeast is living under fear. They said that the youth of the country took up arms because they do not get justice under this government. Earlier the government supplied arms to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to destroy the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], but today the government is giving arms to some other organizations to destroy the LTTE, they said.

Meanwhile, 20 LTTE militants are feared killed at (Velisal) in Trincomalee District when an LTTE hideout was overrun by the security forces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the place. Official reports from Colombo say that in the north, the combined forces have also made further advances in their operations against the LTTE militants in Kankesanturai.